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GENUINE
MEMOIRS

Of the Celebrated

Miss MARIA BROWN.

Exhibiting

The LIFE of a COURTEZAN
in the most Fashionable SCENES of
DISSIPATION.

Published by the Author of a W** of P***

In TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

Under how hard a fate are women born?
Prais'd to their ruin, or expos'd to scorn.
If they want beauty, they of love despair,
And are besieg'd like frontier towns, if fair.

Rowe.

LONDON:

Printed for I. ALLECOCK, near St. Paul's.

MDCCLXVI.

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Mrs. MARYA BROWN



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GENUINE

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Miss MARIA BROWN.

CHAP. I.

Some account of Miss Brown's family and connections. The prejudices of education exemplified. Is destined for a convent. Sets out for Liverpool to embark for France.

AS the reader is not to consider this performance in the light of a novel or a romance, but the real adventures of a person who has

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B

made

made some noise in the gay world ; so he must not be surpris'd if he meets with nothing in these sheets bordering upon the marvellous or surprising. The incidents of my life are not much out of the common road of female seduction, forwarded by the errors of a mistaken genteel education ; and I shall endeavour at a style suitable to a subject that has nothing but plain truth and simple nature to recommend it.

Though the name of Brown being so general may carry the air of a fictitious one, it was certainly my family-name, and is a pretty antient one in Lancashire, which was the place of my nativity. My father enjoyed a small patrimony in this county, which was the usual place of his residence. He was of the Romish persuasion,

persuasion, and was a great stickler for religion, which has been the means of preventing his uncle, who had a place under the government, and some influence at court, assisting him with his protection, which might have been greatly to his interest.

I had two brothers older than myself; but as I was an only daughter, I was the darling both of my father and mother, but particularly the latter, who was one of those good-natured inoffensive women that do every thing for the sake of ease and quietness; so that I had my will upon every occasion: and my brothers tyrannized over her so much by her condescension, and hiding their boyish faults from their father, that we all

three stood a very fair chance of being spoilt children.

Though my father, by his religion, which he made his two sons follow, was precluded all hopes of providing for them by any places under the government or in the army, and though his fortune, when divided, could never be sufficient to maintain us all genteelly; yet possessed so much family pride that he could not prevail upon himself to put them out to any trade; so that after they had attained as much knowledge as the grammar-school could afford, they were sent abroad to complete their studies in a foreign seminary.

My destination was nearly the same; for, having attained my eleventh year, and acquired as much learning
as

as our country boarding-schools could communicate, I was transported to Douay, to complete my education, improve my morals, and establish me more firmly in the principles of my religion.

A priest who lived in our family, and served for our chaplain and general confessor, took care to keep up the superstition which I and my brothers had seemingly naturally imbibed : he told us it was a greater sin to eat meat on a Friday, than to be guilty of theft, or even murder ; and I must acknowledge he so far operated upon my weak mind, that I looked with a kind of horror upon flesh that day ; and it was with some difficulty I could reconcile myself to it the next. I was made to believe that my salvation in a great measure

depended upon my kissing a piece of wood in the shape of a cross. These, and a thousand absurdities of the like nature, appeared to me of the utmost religious consequence, and I therefore considered them with the highest veneration. Whether our confessor really believed what he taught, or assumed so much hypocrisy only to impose upon us, I will not pretend to determine ; but it must be acknowledged, his life was one perpetual round of abstemiousness : he eat very moderately, drank still more sparingly, was not addicted to scandal, and was esteemed very charitable : his character, therefore, more strongly enforced his tenets than even his precepts, and he was looked upon with so much deference in our neighbourhood, that every one thought

thought it a blessing to be in company with Mr. Fisher. Such then was the general character of the superintendant of our souls, who very properly prepared me for my future reclusive life.

I had never yet been absent from my mother one night; for though I had learnt writing, accompts, with dancing, and a little French, at a boarding-school in our town, I had only been what is called a day-scholar; so that when the time approached of my departure for Liverpool, where I was to take shipping for Calais, the thoughts of leaving my mother almost distracted me, and her concern was visibly as great: but when the hour came of our taking leave, I thought my heart would have burst. Words could find no utter-

-ance, I hung round her neck, and
 we mingled our tears together. At
 length, however, she recovered her-
 self enough to say, " My dear Pol-
 " ly, we must part, but I hope not
 " for ever ; it is for the good of
 " both your soul and body ; and tho'
 " it is worse than death to me to
 " let you go, I must not oppose
 " what is so much for your advan-
 " tage. Treasure up the precepts
 " of that holy man Mr. Fisher, and
 " upon every occasion pray for your
 " father and mother, Tommy and
 " Charles." Here a flood of tears
 stopt her saying any more ; and my
 father very opportunely came to our
 relief, summoning me to repair to
 the coach, which, he said, had
 been waiting for me near half an
 hour. He took by the hand, and,
 without

without inquiring the cause of our grief, which he very well knew, he conducted me to the coach, whilst I remained quite insensible to every object about me.

C H A P. II.

Some Account of Maria's fellow-travellers. The conversation that ensues, wherein Mr. Brown takes so great and zealous a part. Its salutary effects upon Maria.

I Had gone some miles before I ever once thought of considering my fellow-travellers. My father, who was by my side, frequently desired me to dry up my eyes, and not give way so much to grief; but I found this vent the only solace that was left me, and it would have been

cruel to have denied me the small consolation, which this indulgence of my sorrow afforded. The rivulets of misery seemed at length to have dried their springs ; and as they had before spontaneously flowed, they now in the same manner stopped their course, and I was able to make use of my visual orbs for their destined vocation.

Our company consisted of two French prisoners who had been set at liberty by the treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle, a smuggler from the Isle of Man, and one of the actors belonging to the strolling company at Liverpool. They soon discovered their occupations by their conversation : the French officers very ingenuously acknowledged the civil and generous treatment they had met with in England,

land, where they owned they had fared better, though they had been prisoners, than if they had been in actual service in their own country. The contraband trader agreed with the Frenchmen, that England was one of the most hospitable countries under the sun, and would be in every sense the best, if it was not for custom-house officers and excisemen, who were the pest of society, and the bane of all commerce. As to the actor, he complained loudly of the tyranny of managers, and the want of discernment in auditors, who let merit go unrewarded, whilst they lavished their money upon foreign singers, dancers, and harlequins.

My eyes and ears were the only organs capable of performing their office : as to my tongue, my spirits were

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My eyes and ears were the only organs capable of performing their office : as to my tongue, my spirits were

by far too much depressed for me to attempt exercising it, and the only articulate sound I was capable of expressing, was *bigb ho!* which frequently escaped from me, and which, with my former tears, had thrown my father into almost as melancholy a mood as myself, and had not the topic veered to religion, he would have been as little emulous as myself of joining in it. But this was the diapason of all his argument, of all his reasoning; it was impossible to touch this key without attuning his pipe, to throw in that discord so necessary to constitute harmony. No sooner had the illegal trader given his sentiments upon the significance of custom-house oaths, than Mr. Brown immediately entered upon the subject, and proved, by very learned and theological arguments,

ment, that a man must be irretrievably damned who was guilty of the crime of perjury. No one had the audacity to oppose this opinion directly; but the smuggler put an interrogation to Mr. Brown, which somewhat disconcerted him, as he was not prepared with an answer: "Whether there were as many hells as there were crimes? If not," continued the querist, "all punishments are alike, and there is no justice in the decree." This was a bold assertion in the presence of my father, and he called forth all his zeal, and no small share of superstition, to prove that there were but two hells, or rather one and a half, as purgatory could not be looked upon as a complete state of damnation. The primitive fathers, and many modern theological

cal writers, were overhauled to support his doctrine, which was as soporific as it was orthodox, and lulled me to a more gentle and salutary sleep than I had experienced for some days.

C H A P. III.

Maria's arrival at Liverpool; embarks for Calais. Her meditations. Her acquaintance with Miss Fleetwood. This young Lady's story.

MY slumbers were not in the least interrupted till we arrived at Liverpool, and we stopped at the inn, where I was to take a farewell-supper with my father. The ship was ready to sail the next morning; and, after a very affectionate scene

scene that passed between Mr. Brown and myself, I went on board.

A fresh gale sprung up, and in about three hours we were almost out of sight of land, but to the last my fond eyes stole a look at Albion's cliffs. "Farewel to my native shore, relations, friends, all that's dear, perhaps for ever!" A flood of tears burst upon the conclusion of this soliloquy, which closed the scene of all but the watery element; and now succeeded such a qualm of stomach, as entirely diverted my thoughts from every thing but present relief, which I, in some measure, obtained, by the customary operation of sea-sickness; and a few hours after I had such an eager appetite, that having found in the cabin some ship-beef, I made the most

most hearty and most delicious regale I ever had in my life.

My spirits being by these means somewhat recruited, I began to consider my situation in a more favourable point of light than I had hitherto looked upon it, and my affliction was greatly alleviated by finding a young lady on board, who was destined for the like station, and the same convent as myself; so true it is that a companion in affliction diminishes our sorrows. We soon entered into familiar chat, when she acquainted me with her family and connections, and the cause of her being sent abroad.

“My dear, said she, you most
 “likely have heard of my family and
 “friends. My name is Juliana Fleet-
 “wood; my father lives within a
 “few

“ few miles of Lancaster ; he has a
 “ patrimonial estate of about two
 “ thousand a year, and I am his only
 “ daughter.. My mother died about
 “ four years ago, and I have been un-
 “ der the care of a distant female re-
 “ lation ever since.. This cousin of
 “ mine was not without her foibles,
 “ and perhaps the most predominant
 “ one she had was that of drinking.
 “ As I had it in my power to pro-
 “ mote her indulging herself in this
 “ respect, so she, in return, gave me
 “ all the liberty of conscience and
 “ action I could desire. I was with-
 “ out any sort of constraint, when
 “ I attained that age that determined
 “ I was a woman. I had read love-
 “ stories, and little romances, which
 “ our maids furnished me with. In
 “ reading Pamela, I was greatly
 “ pleased!

“ pleased to find that she was at last
“ made happy ; and this event so
“ strongly operated upon my mind,
“ that from this moment I looked
“ upon all distinction of birth and
“ fortune as no sort of impediment to
“ two persons being united, whose
“ affections were mutual. With
“ these romances in my head, and fa-
“ vourable dispositions in my heart,
“ our house was more like a nunnery
“ than a gentleman’s country-seat ;
“ and I had never yet set my eyes up-
“ on any thing that was called a gen-
“ tleman in our neighbourhood, ex-
“ cept a country-squire, who was a
“ great sportsman, and who more re-
“ sembled his dogs and horses than a
“ rational creature. He could talk of
“ nothing but leaping five-bar gates,
“ being in at the death, laying the
“ odds,

“ odds, and winning of plates : this
 “ was conversation I had no sort of
 “ relish for, and could not help con-
 “ cluding, that if gentlemen talked
 “ in the same strain, and upon the
 “ same subjects, they had little rea-
 “ son to pique themselves upon their
 “ birth and education. At the same
 “ time that I was drawing these no
 “ very favourable conclusions upon
 “ the score of gentility, I could not
 “ help making a comparison be-
 “ tween the squire and William, a
 “ young footman that had been in
 “ our family for some years. Me-
 “ thought that his manners were
 “ more polished, and his conversation,
 “ which I frequently overheard with
 “ the maids, more rational, than the
 “ squire’s, and with respect to his
 “ person all comparison was de-
 “ stroyed.

“stroyed. The squire was clumsy,
 “ungenteel, purblind, and pock-
 “frecken; whereas William’s face
 “was handsome, his person tall and
 “well-made, and his deportment
 “agreeable: upon the whole, me-
 “thought nature never intended such
 “wide distinctions as my father was
 “continually making between people
 “of fashion and the laborious part of
 “mankind.

“I had for some time observed, that
 “William’s peculiar study was to en-
 “deavour at anticipating all my or-
 “ders; he guessed by my motions
 “what I seemed desirous of, and
 “scarce ever gave me an opportuni-
 “ty to ask for a thing. Such atten-
 “tion on his part, I must acknow-
 “ledge, attracted my observation
 “more than usual, and I could not
 “help

“ help frequently casting a glance
 “ to see with what readiness he
 “ caught my looks, and yet our eyes
 “ scarce ever met, but what I could
 “ perceive a sort of confusion in his
 “ countenance.

“ He was one afternoon waiting
 “ upon me whilst I was drinking-tea,
 “ all alone, in our summer-house, at
 “ the end of the garden; when giving
 “ him a nod to fill the pot, he did it,
 “ uttering such a sigh, that I could
 “ not help jocosely asking him, *Sure,*
 “ *Will, you're not in love?* I had not
 “ completely uttered the words, till
 “ his hand shook to that degree that
 “ he poured some water on my hand,
 “ which scalded me. He was so
 “ greatly affected with what he had
 “ done, that he burst into tears,
 “ which moved me so much,
 “ that

“ that, for the present, I forgot the a-
 “ cute pain that I felt from the boiling
 “ water, and I found myself highly
 “ interested in consoling him, by as-
 “ suring him that the burn was not
 “ great, and that he need not give
 “ way so much to his grief upon the
 “ occasion.

“ Upon my affording him some
 “ consolation, he dried up his tears,
 “ but gave me such a look as it is
 “ impossible for me to describe.
 “ Young and ignorant as I was in the
 “ language of the eyes, methought I
 “ read every thing that the most ten-
 “ der, the most sensible sentiments
 “ could express.

“ From this moment I was never
 “ easy but when Will was waiting
 “ or attending upon me ; and I ne-
 “ ver had so much pleasure, as when

“ I

“ I could contemplate his person,
 “ without being observed by any one.
 “ I discovered charms in him that I
 “ had before slightly passed over; his
 “ face appeared to me that of a per-
 “ fect Adonis; Cupids lay in am-
 “ bush in every ringlet of his flow-
 “ ing chestnut-hair; his whole per-
 “ son seemed to be a model for sta-
 “ tuaries and painters! I longed for
 “ an opportunity of saying to him
 “ something upon the score of love,
 “ and would freely have underwent
 “ the pain of having my fingers
 “ scalded again, to have had so fa-
 “ vourable an occasion of entering
 “ upon the subject.

“ I contrived to drink tea alone in
 “ the same place a few days after;
 “ but I was no longer able to com-
 “ mand those looks, the meaning of
 “ which

“ which he used so quickly to catch;
 “ and when I would have given him
 “ a command, I could utter nothing
 “ but a sigh: in fine, there was
 “ not a word passed upon this occa-
 “ sion, but complete confusion on
 “ both sides, without either of us
 “ having dared to venture a look at
 “ each other.

“ The next morning I found upon
 “ my dressing-table a letter, which I
 “ opened with rapture. I believe I
 “ have it in my pocket, and will read
 “ it to you.

“ Oh! thou divine creature,
 “ What can be the reason I am so
 “ miserable and you so perplexed?
 “ Surely there can be no sympathy in
 “ souls which fortune has placed at
 “ so great a distance. I dare not
 “ ven-

“ venture to think that you could
 “ throw away a thought upon such a
 “ wretch as me! No, it is impossible;
 “ I must fly to some remote corner of
 “ the earth, and there forget there is
 “ such a divine being as the incom-
 “ parable Juliana. Why then do I
 “ pretend to trouble with my im-
 “ pertinence and folly so much ex-
 “ cellence, when it would be the
 “ highest presumption in me to say,
 “ I was her most abject slave,

“ *William Franklin.*”

“ It is impossible to express what
 “ satisfaction I received in perusing
 “ these lines. I read them over and
 “ over, and every time I thought I dis-
 “ covered fresh beauties and more
 “ meaning. I was, however, great-
 “ ly perplexed to know what step I
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“ should take ; for a young lady to
 “ write to a man, appeared to me
 “ highly criminal, and especially an
 “ answer to such a letter as this ; yet
 “ I found my heart strongly pleaded
 “ for the use of pen and paper, and I
 “ should have readily submitted to
 “ its dictates, had I known what to
 “ say.

“ I was in this perplexity when he
 “ was ordered to call me to break-
 “ fast. He fell upon his knees, and
 “ begged I would forgive him the
 “ imprudence he had been-guilty of.
 “ Saying this, however, he insensibly
 “ got hold of my hand, and bathed
 “ it with his tears ; nor could I find
 “ the least inclination to withdraw it
 “ from him.

“ All explanations now became
 “ superfluous, and we availed our-
 “ selves

“ selves of every opportunity of be-
 “ ing together, when we gave each
 “ other the strongest assurances of
 “ our mutual passion.

“ We had never yet been disco-
 “ vered, for my gouvernante was ge-
 “ nerally half the day so well em-
 “ ployed with her cordial friends,
 “ that she never gave us any in-
 “ interruption ; and as to the maids,
 “ I contrived always to find them
 “ such employment at some opposite
 “ parts of the house, that our tête-a-
 “ tête parties had never yet been
 “ broke in upon. In one of these un-
 “ interrupted conversations we took
 “ the resolution of setting off post
 “ for London, in order to be mar-
 “ ried at May Fair chapel.

“ My father was at this time at
 “ Bath, and every thing promised

“ fair for the execution of our pro-
 “ ject. I had packed up what
 “ cloaths I thought necessary for our
 “ journey, and William had pro-
 “ vided a post-chaise at Manchester,
 “ whither he took me behind him
 “ upon one of my father’s horses.

“ But though we succeeded thus
 “ far, our evil genius soon interfered,
 “ we met the squire upon the road.
 “ His jealousy was roused at perceiv-
 “ ing us, as he had professed himself
 “ one of my admirers : he sent an
 “ express to my father, and when
 “ we got out of the chaise at Hyde-
 “ park-corner, we found ourselves
 “ surrounded with constables. To
 “ shorten this disagreeable part of
 “ my narrative, I was wrested from
 “ the only man I ever loved, brought
 “ back to my father’s, when the al-
 “ ternative

“ternative propofal was made me, of
 “either giving my hand to the
 “squire, or fequeftering myfelf
 “from the world in a nunnery. You
 “fee the refolution I have made,
 “and I doubt not have merited
 “thereby your approbation.”

C H A P. IV.

Arrive at Calais, the defign Maria
 has of returning to England with-
 out landing; is prevailed upon to
 lay it afide. An uncommon ad-
 venture, and its confequences.

MY heart, as yet a ftranger to
 the tender paffion, felt fome
 emotions upon the relation of Mifs
 Fleetwood's ftory; and though I
 had fcarce attained my twelfth

year, I began to think I was going to act a very unnatural part in secluding myself from the world, and particularly from that part of the creation who alone I began to imagine could confer real felicity.

“ Ay, my dear Juliana, said I,
 “ what a cruel tyranny are parents
 “ allowed to exercise towards us, ac-
 “ cording to their whims and ca-
 “ prices, without consulting our sen-
 “ timents and dispositions! You
 “ might have been more happy with
 “ your dear Billy, than if you had
 “ wedded an emperor; titles and
 “ grandeur do not confer felicity, or
 “ those who possess them would not
 “ complain.”

A flood of tears gave testimony of the concurrence of her sentiments with mine; she was too deeply af-

afflicted with the relation of her story, and my comment, to be able to answer me with words; but I perfectly understood her silent expression by my own feeling.

Whilst we were thus employed, we unexpectedly entered Calais harbour. Here was a new world open to my view, a collection of figures and appearances I was utterly a stranger to; every thing seemed to me terrible, and it was with much difficulty I could be disposed to get on shore, having endeavoured to prevail on Miss Fleetwood to secrete ourselves in the hold of the vessel, that we might return with it; but her experience of the world, though not great, was far beyond mine; and she pointed out the many difficulties and dangers we had to surmount in

the execution of such a project, and the reception we should meet with from our relations and friends, in so lively and picturesque a manner, that she soon convinced me of the little practicability there was of executing such a scheme with success.

Behold me now, for the first time, upon French ground, tormented with a thousand impertinent and frivolous questions by custom-house officers and porters, and at length conducted to a dirty inn, which was reckoned the best in the whole town.

We were to remain here till the next night, as the coach would not be ready to set out for Douay till then. Whilst we were still at the inn, an adventure happened that was somewhat singular, and which, tho'

tho' it occurred fifteen years ago,
I retain a perfect remembrance of.

A young gentleman, about eighteen years of age, came running into our apartment between nine and ten at night, in great consternation, saying, "I am a dead man if you don't save me." Such an unexpected declaration greatly surprized us : however, after our first emotions were subsided, we began to inquire into the cause of so abrupt and unexpected a visit. "Look you, ladies, he replied, with great earnestness, if you have humanity enough to assist me in making my escape, you must do it speedily. I have not time to acquaint you with my story : all I can tell you in a few words is, that the officers of the police are at my heels, and if they

“ come up with me I shall be broke
 “ alive ; the packet is now going to
 “ sail for England, but I cannot get
 “ on board without being disguised,
 “ for orders have been sent to all the
 “ sea-ports for stopping my getting
 “ out of the kingdom ; without one
 “ of you will lend me your dress and
 “ name, I am a dead man.”

So earnest an address pleaded his
 cause effectually ; and Miss Fleet-
 wood, without asking his name, or
 any question, immediately equipped
 him with one of her gowns, and all
 the other apparatus of female dress,
 when having most sincerely thanked
 us for our goodness, he set out, leav-
 ing his own cloaths behind him.

Though such a scene as a man's
 undressing before me, would at any
 other time have greatly dashed me,
 the

the critical circumstances of the youth, and the impossibility there was of his doing it any where else, removed all those delicate notions upon this head, which I was naturally possessed of ; and I even assisted him in putting on his cloaths, to make him appear as much like a female as possible. We were so successful in this respect, that he embarked on board the packet without being discovered, and sailed for England with a fair wind.

He had not been gone above two hours before we were disturbed by the officer of the police, who came to search the inn, having information that he had taken refuge there : we made as many excuses as possible for not giving them admittance, but all to no purpose ; they insisted upon

entering, and the more desirous we were of preventing them, the more strenuously they persisted in their demand. It was not, however, till they had began to force open the door, and that we found all the pleadings of our sex and youth were of no avail, that we agreed to let them in as soon as we had dressed ourselves.

They searched the apartment, and soon discovered the young gentleman's cloaths : they immediately suspected we had been instrumental in his escape, and we were, without farther ceremony, taken before the governor, who upon examining us soon prevailed upon Miss Fleetwood to acknowledge all that passed. I was set at liberty, but she was put under arrest.

During

During her confinement I learnt the particulars of the young gentleman's story. He was one of the grey musqueteers, a remarkably handsome youth, and was therefore greatly careffed by the ladies at Versailles. He lived in great splendor and magnificence, and consequently expended large sums, which, it was well known, he acquired by the beneficence of the fair sex, in return for favours which he conferred upon them. His enamoratas were not, however, publickly known, though scandal often pointed them out. A farmer-general, whose wife made frequent calls upon him for considerable sums, which she pretended she had lost at play, gave him at length suspicion that she must have
some

some other method of disposing of money than ill success at cards. He employed emissaries, who discovered the intrigue that was carried on between his wife and the young musqueteer. The financier was naturally of a jealous disposition. He had married the lady out of pure love. She was of mean extraction, and had no fortune.

He repaired to the place of their rendezvous, resolving to make an example both of his wife and her gallant. He got into the chamber, and was an eye-witness of her perfidy. Rushing upon them sword-in-hand, while they were in this defenceless situation, they were likely both to fall a sacrifice to his revenge; but the young musqueteer seized his sword, and

and having disengaged himself from the couch of Venus, he entered the field of Mars, with such uncommon resolution and address, that the farmer-general paid for his temerity with his life.

The musqueteer had no time to lose after such an affair. As soon as he was dressed he took post for Calais, where he arrived only one hour before his pursuers. The lady was taken up and examined; but it appearing that she was no way accessory to the murder, she was set at liberty, without suffering any other punishment than the loss of her reputation.

CHAP.

C H A P. V.

Arrive at Douay. Their reception at the convent. The behaviour of the father-confessor to Miss Fleetwood and Maria. The great veneration that he is held in. An unfortunate discovery in the person of a nun. The event.

MISS Fleetwood remained confined upon the young musqueteer's account near three weeks. It was not till she had sent over to England to her relations, and they had given satisfactory answers to the governor's doubts, whether or no she was a relation or mistress of the young gentleman's, that she obtained her liberty. I sent an account of this affair to my papa, and obtained
leave

leave to remain at Calais, till such time as Juliana was able to renew her journey.

At length all formalities being observed, and Miss Fleetwood having received a very severe reprimand from the governor, she was released, and we departed from Calais for Douay, where we arrived without any remarkable occurrence on the way.

Upon our arrival at the convent, the mother abbess came to the gate to meet us, and usher us in. She conducted us into the parlour, where she heaped compliments without number upon us. She told us, “ we
 “ were the most agreeable young
 “ ladies she had ever set eyes upon ;
 “ that the sisterhood would be de-
 “ lighted in having so amiable an ad-
 “ dition

“ dition to their number, and that
 “ she plainly saw we were designed
 “ for angels ; that heaven had par-
 “ celled us out for it's own ; that we
 “ should find every thing agreeable
 “ to our merit ; and that there
 “ should be nothing wanting to ren-
 “ der that holy seminary a delight-
 “ ful sanctuary.”

We were next introduced to all the
 sisterhood, one by one, who were
 equally lavish in their praises. There
 was nothing at all disagreeable in this
 introduction ; but when our father-
 confessor was brought to us, the scene
 was greatly changed ; he told us to
 prepare ourselves for confession next
 day, and having taken us separately
 aside, he bid me recollect all the sins
 I had

I had been guilty of, or thought I could charge myself with.

At my first confession, the next day, after I had revealed every thing I had done, which appeared to me in the light of evil, he still persisted in it, that I must have been guilty of more sins ; that it was impossible for any mortal to live so upright as I had described. He hinted crimes to me which I was entirely ignorant of, and did not know their meaning ; and at my departure, he muttered something about my being a hypocrite.

I could not help contrasting the behaviour of this capuchin, with the open frankness and honest good nature of Mr. Fisher, who was always satisfied with what I told him, and was never desirous of extorting
an

an acknowledgment of imaginary sins.

Miss Fleetwood had agreed with me, to communicate to each other whatever happened during our stay there; and though our father-confessor enjoined us to the strictest secrecy with regard to what passed at confession, we considered our prior engagement of more weight than his menaces.

She therefore acquainted me with the manner of his behaviour to her, which was very different; for tho' she told him all that had passed between Billy and her, and all the various agitations of her mind, he had appeared no way dissatisfied at her conduct, and seemed to lament that
 "it was not in his power to make
 ' her

“ her happy.” She added, he made use of these last words in so tender a manner, and accompanied them with so deep a sigh, that she could not believe the holy father was altogether so pious-minded as he ought to have been.

Father Jaquel, which was his name, was about forty years of age ; he was rather low of stature, and inclined to be plump, of a ruddy complexion, with a longish nose, and black eyes, which he could render very expressive, at least in anger. By his public actions and words, every one would have concluded him to be a saint. He was particularly abstemious in his common diet, and conversed upon no subject but such as were scriptural. It was looked upon
as

as the highest crime to hint any thing to his prejudice, and every devotee appeared particularly sedulous to serve him.

He had been upwards of two years in the convent, his character remaining always an ornament to his order, though by several discourses which had passed between him and Miss Fleetwood at confession, it was pretty plain that he had not entirely surmounted all the effects of carnality, when an affair happened that at once destroyed his pious reputation, and had nearly ruined all tranquillity in the convent.

Miss Fleetwood and I had remarked that the holy father continued always a much longer time in confessing and giving absolution to one of our nuns, whose name was Made-

de-

demoiselle Fenelon, than any other of the order. We had more than once perceived him retire from her in great confusion, and Mademoiselle's head and tucker often appeared very much ruffled after these holy conferences. It would have been highly uncharitable to have supposed any harm had passed between them upon these pious occasions, and it would have been still more dangerous to have revealed such suppositions. However, at the end of this period, Miss Fenelon's waist appeared uncommonly large. She would readily have submitted to a dropical complaint, but she had no symptoms but what the faculty could have accounted for upon more natural principles: she was nevertheless indulged

dulged in the belief that she was afflicted with this disorder, and proper remedies were prescribed for her. They all proved ineffectual, and the time for her being tapped now approached. Instead of a discharge of water, she produced two fine chopping boys.

She was taken ill at midnight. The neighbourhood was alarmed as well as the convent. It was a whimsical errand for a messenger to go upon :
 “ One of our nuns is in labour, and
 “ want your assistance immediately.”
 There was no mincing matters ; a midwife must be had, and what other message could be delivered ?

“ The reputation of my house de-
 “ stroyed—the sanctity of my cha-
 “ racter ruined—virtuous mind turn-
 “ ed

“ ed astray— pious virgins led to vi-
 “ cious thoughts— and I myself,
 “ whose chastity has ever been un-
 “ tainted, to have such a spectacle be-
 “ fore my eyes, nay, under my very
 “ nose ; not only one, but even two
 “ at a time ; oh, monstrous !” Such
 were the lamentations of our worthy
 mother abbess, who seemed greatly
 afflicted indeed ; but whether out of
 real piety for the loss of so pious a pa-
 stor as father Jaquel, who had ere
 now absconded, I cannot pretend to
 determine. It must be acknow-
 ledged that her grief seemed to be
 blended with a spice of jealousy, as
 well as a christian abhorrence for such
 shameful and scandalous conduct.

C H A P. VI.

Maria is called over to England upon the death of her father. The affectionate leave she takes of Miss Fleetwood. Arrives in London; meets her brothers. Her behaviour at the play. The patrimony she receives. An invitation from her mother, which she disregards. The dangerous insinuation of her aunt.

SUCH then was our situation in the convent, when news came of the death of my father. The executors of his will demanded my attendance in England as soon as possible; and after having taken leave of the mother abbess, and the rest of my companions, I set out to review my native country, after two years and a half

half absence. Miss Fleetwood testified the greatest concern at parting with me, saying, “ she should now
 “ be miserable indeed, as I had been
 “ her only consolation amidst all her
 “ heart-breaking anxieties.” There certainly was a sympathy of sentiments, which our constant acquaintance, from our first meeting, had framed into something superior to friendship ; it bordered upon love. To quit, then, the only object that had yet excited in me any notions that could be denominated by that passion, must have been the more dreadful to her, as her confinement was still to be continued, without a friend into whose bosom she could pour the secrets of her heart. Alas! I know too well what she must have felt by my own sensations,

I left the disconsolate Juliana in the spring of the year 1752, and for the first time saw the metropolis of England. This was a scene indeed for a girl who had been immured in a monastery from the time that reason first began to dawn. I met my brothers, whom I had not seen for near three years, having come to London upon the same errand as myself. Their religion, I have observed, precluded them employment in their native country, and they had therefore been compelled to seek it elsewhere. The eldest had obtained a commission in the Imperial service, and the younger in that of France. They had served during the preceding war in Flanders and Italy, and acquired some laurels in the two last campaigns. They expressed great satisfaction at meeting

meeting me, which I as sensibly returned.

Whilst our, testamentary business was settling, my brothers very kindly shewed me all the public diversions. I had never seen a play before, when they took me to the celebrated tragedy of Romeo and Juliet. The representation of this piece could not fail very greatly affecting me, as, besides the characters and sentiments which must be highly interesting to a young mind, the funeral procession, in many respects similar to what I had been accustomed to, gave it such an air of reality, that my brothers said they were quite ashamed at my being so deeply affected. They told me *it was a mark of great rusticity to be touched at any incidents of a theatrical representation ;*

that people of taste paid them not the least regard; but, on the contrary, in the midst of the most tender scenes, they would be entertaining one another with a loud whisper, or a louder laugh.

I acknowledge that I might have been guilty of a mark of unpoliteness, in giving vent to the grief those interesting scenes excited; but that at the same time I conceived those people of supposed taste were not only guilty of ill-manners in disturbing the rest of the audience, but proved themselves insensible to every thing that was sublime and beautiful.

Though my brothers were not averse to acknowledge the rectitude of this reasoning, they were such avowed slaves to ridiculous custom, that I could never prevail upon them to attend me again to a tragedy. However we went to more comedies than
one,

one, and whilst the business which they came to England upon lasted, they treated me with great fraternal regard, and seemed particularly anxious for my welfare.

Their leave of absence was now expired, and they were obliged to return to their respective corps. By the regulation of my father's will, after his legal debts were paid, a bequest of two hundred and fifty pounds fell to my lot. My brothers received five hundred pounds each, and my mother had a small annuity secured to her for her life, with which she subsisted decently, not elegantly, in Lancashire. This was the disposition of all our family-fortune, and with this small stipend I was to make my way in the world as a gentlewoman and a woman of character.

My brothers were very desirous before their departure for the continent, to see me settled in some manner, whereby I might gain a genteel livelihood; but the shortness of their stay in England prevented their effecting their design. It is true, my mother wrote to me, with intreaties to come to her, where, by our mutual œconomy, we might contrive to pass an agreeable life upon the produce of our joint stock. I may attribute all my misfortunes to not paying a proper attention to this proposal. I too eagerly swallowed the sweetened flattery of an aunt, at whose house I lodged, who persuaded me “ I
 “ should certainly make my fortune
 “ in London, where my narrow cir-
 “ cumstances were not known; but
 “ that if I returned to Lancashire,
 “ where

“where our family-poverty had been”
 “so completely manifested, I could”
 “not expect any one would look up-”
 “on me for a wife, or esteem me as”
 “an acquaintance ; that London was”
 “the only market for beauty, and”
 “that a prudent sensible girl like me,”
 “who had so good an education, and”
 “was mistress of so many charms,”
 “could not fail very shortly of meet-”
 “ing with a man suitable to her most”
 “sanguine wishes.”

These sentiments were so entirely agreeable to my own way of thinking, that I could not be persuaded they were unjust. Little did I then consider that self-interest was the principal motive of my aunt's broaching this doctrine. She told me “ I was now arrived at woman's age, tho' I was scarce fifteen, and it was

“ time for me to think of settling in
 “ the world ; that in the choice of a
 “ husband, I should not so much con-
 “ sider beauty, or even youth, as
 “ that great palliative of all evils,
 “ money ; that I must not expect to
 “ meet with all those fine romantic
 “ ideas of a lover, which I had per-
 “ haps suggested to myself, in a hus-
 “ band ; that, if he were not old or
 “ ugly, so much the better, but the
 “ main thing was to find out one
 “ that was rich ;” and she generally
 ended with a passage out of Garth’s
 prologue to Cato, and which, I be-
 lieve, was the only scrap of poetry
 she ever read, or at least retained.

“ The woes of wedlock with the joys
 “ we mix ;

“ ’Tis best repenting in a coach and six.”

This

This was a favourite sentiment of her's, and which she took great pains to inculcate in me.

Though I was thoroughly of opinion that I was a very proper woman, and very fit to be married, yet I could not help shuddering with horror at the thoughts of wedding age and infirmity. To clasp disease within my arms, methought was shocking to nature and reason.

C H A P. VII.

Maria's progress in the beau monde.

A description of her person. Her first conquest, with a curious epistle. Her behaviour thereupon, and her aunt's judicious observations.

MY worthy aunt took particular and early care to let me know, that a girl's fortune in London depended in a great measure upon the figure and appearance she made, and that therefore I should think of furnishing myself with some genteel and fashionable cloaths, at the same time intimating that I had scarce a gown that was fit to wear, as I had out-grown all my things that were made in the English taste, and as to my French ones, they were abominable.

nable. By this means she put me to about thirty pounds expence for three new facks, and so completely disgusted me at my old ones, that with very little persuation she became the proprietor of them. I could not help, however, observing, that tho' they looked so frightful upon me, they appeared quite different when upon her, and that she considered them as the very best in her whole wardrobe.

The great object she pointed out to me was, the necessity of my appearing in public places, that I might be seen and talked about; for it was a maxim with her, that the finest woman in England who shut herself up, could never think of having admirers; "and besides," she would add, "if you once become the reigning toast, you may command a coronet;
"net;

“ net ; for the men, in their choice,
 “ do not mind so much what they
 “ themselves think of a woman, as
 “ what the world thinks of her.”

There was no occasion for such strong stimulatives to prompt me to follow the paths of pleasure ; I had myself as much delight in going to the Park, the play, or Vauxhall, as she could possibly have instilled into me with all her reasoning and logic ; it is true, her arguments seemed to me additional incentives, and I thought I must be in the right road when I had the advice and applause of a woman of so much experience, and so near a relation. Upon this plan, then, we seldom missed an evening but what we were at some public diversion or other. A young girl, a fresh object in the gay world, well dressed, fails not

not of some observers : it will not be astonishing then to think I attracted the attention of more than one, when the following picture of myself, at this time, I do sincerely think was a just one.

Nature seemed in some measure to anticipate my days of maturity, for though I was but in my fifteenth year, I had every appearance of a woman ; I was already above the middle stature, with a fair skin, clear sparkling black eyes, a well-shaped nose, pouting ruby lips, regular white teeth, and an agreeable dimple in my cheek ; my hair was of a dark brown, which flowed in ringlets down a neck that was taper and well-shaped ; an easy fall of the shoulders took off, in some degree, from that plumpness before, which is uncommon at my age ;

age; my shape was not remarkably slender, but proportioned to my body, and my legs and feet, which were particularly genteel, received grace from an easy unaffected air I was naturally possessed of; my hand and arm, already formed, were of the number of those which painters so attentively imitate.

The reader will perhaps be inclined to think I am rather vain of my person. I might have been so at the age I am speaking of, but I have no vestiges of that folly remaining, so that I may now be supposed to speak without prejudice. It is observed, that we always talk most awkwardly about ourselves, especially when it relates to any thing that may be considered as a perfection. I shall there-

therefore give a transcript of the first love-letter I ever received, which might not a little contribute to the opinion I entertained of my charms, as it paints me in a much more beautiful form than I have attempted to draw myself.

“ Most beauteous maid,

I know not from what clime thou art borrowed, or whether we owe thee to celestial parents; but thou art certainly the most enchanting creature that eyes ever beheld. It is now a fortnight since I have paid attention to any other object but yourself. — I have been all this time studying to discover in thee some imperfection — but how vain, how fruitless have been my endeavours? — Every time I gaze, fresh charms rush upon me before undiscovered. Venus and the
graces,

graces are odious comparisons when you appear.—For heaven's sake, if you have any charity, study to make yourself less handsome, or teach me some how to deserve such incomparable beauty.—Alas ! what do I say ? I rave. Is it possible for a wretch like me to imagine you will throw away a thought upon the miserable

Lothario."

This letter is wrote in the true style of romance, and there is nothing wanting to make one believe that Lothario felt all the anguish he expressed, but that he did not tag a single couplet to it. A lover must be a poet by instinct ; madrigals and sonnets are the only pure language of Cytherea. A true lover should do nothing like another man — a serenade should

should serve him for sleep—he should
fast out of passion—rhyme out of
sentiment, and die out of fondness.
What a pity it is Lothario could not
tag a couplet or two; nay, had he
borrowed it, and only said,

A gen'ral doom on all mankind is past,
And all are fools and lovers first or last,

I certainly should have believed
him, and never thought of him with-
out ruminating upon his character,
I mean that of a lover. But for a
man to dangle after you from public
place to public place, grow wan in
staring at you—keep time to the mu-
sic with his sighs, without having
the effrontery to tell you, “You are
“the finest woman in all Christen-
“dom,” though by-the-bye he never
was out of England—but, at the
end

end of a fortnight, to write you a melancholy ditty, and say "I am the unhappy Lothario," does not he deserve to be treated just in the manner I treated him—that is, having his letter returned by the bearer, after having taken a copy of it? This, it must be owned, was highly necessary, or else how the deuce could I have remembered it?

How easy it is to write when one scribbles upon a pleasing subject! I have run through three pages, and scarce know where I am, and I only set out in giving a description of Miss Maria Brown, in her fifteenth year. But as we have gone so far, it is time to change the subject, and think what sort of a creature this same strange Lothario might be.

He

He was a man about thirty, tall and well-made, seemed passionately fond of music, before he became so passionately fond of me. He never missed an opera nor an oratorio, took his seat under the orchestra at Vauxhall, and as constantly placed himself next the rails at Ranelagh; he seldom sauntered in the Park, till I drew him from the Royal Exchange to St. James's in the forenoon. In a word, he was an opulent merchant, and might have made an excellent husband, if I had possessed more prudence and less coquetry.

When I read the letter to my aunt, she said the man was certainly out of his mind, and she would by no means have any of her family unite with lunatics. There was no consideration, she added, could be
equi-

equivalent to bringing a race of mad folks into the world, and that in this respect it was full as bad as the evil.

C H A P. VIII.

A modern character in the person of Dorimont. His passions and afflictions. Maria is rivalled by a new-fashioned negligee.

THOUGH my youth and ignorance in the real estimation of mankind prevented my thinking seriously upon such a suitor as Lothario, I was not insensible of the great estimation in which I seemed to be held by fops and dangles. My worthy aunt had more reasons than one for dissuading me to think of Lothario: though the advancing of
my

my interest was the pretended motive for acting upon the present recreative plan, yet her own advantage was what she had really at heart; and as my purse bore all the weight, she very judiciously conceived, that the sooner I married, the sooner she would be precluded from my assistance, especially if I was to wed a man of sense and discernment sufficient to see into her real designs: she conceived if I married a beau, or a fool, he might be persuaded to believe that she had all along acted the parent's part, and that it would still be for my advantage to remain under so good and experienced a tutress. For these reasons I never had a civil thing said to me by the *butterflies* of the day, but she advised me to listen to so genteel a man, so polite a person, so elegant a fel-

a fellow. A girl's natural vanity and fondness of dress and parade are alone sufficient incentives for her to consider those heterogeneous animals in a point of light very different from what they merit: the sanction this disposition received from my gouvernante, made me conceive I was in terrestrial elysium every time a powdered puppy told me, with an unmeaning face, that *I was the sweetest creature he had ever seen.*

Dorimont, that compendium of perfumery, who spoke only to hear his own sweet voice, smiled only to display his dimple, and laughed only to manifest the whiteness of his teeth; the unmeaning, insignificant, odoriferous Dorimont was a professed suitor of mine; he was enamoured, because it was the fashion to be
in

in love; but this passion never exceeded the bounds of the most insipid delicacy, of the most unmeaning chastity; he would fain have had the world believe he was the happy man, but he was not desirous of taking the trouble of being so. The summit of Dorimont's bliss was to be considered a favourite of the Ladies. Did they but smile upon him at the play, or ogle him at Ranelagh, oh! the happy, too happy Dorimont! A new toast no sooner made her appearance, than he contrived some method of being introduced to her; and he was sure to be the first man that was seen with her tête-à-tête in publick. All his faculties were confined to studying the means of procuring these desirable ends; and it must be acknowledged

E

to

to his credit, that his success was equal to his industry.

. Dorimont was a great favourite of my aunt's ; she had prevailed upon him to believe that she was a very sensible woman, had seen much of the world, kept the best company, and had always been esteemed for her politeness and agreeable conversation. This favourable opinion which Dorimont entertained of my aunt, made her, by a certain reciprocity of sentiment, entertain very favourable notions of Dorimont, who in her eyes was the accomplished gentleman, a perfect master of good breeding, had an excellent taste for dress, a most engaging manner, and, above all, was a complete judge of mankind. What could be more endearing than all these accomplishments in
a hus-

a husband ? But the misfortune was, he never opened his lips upon the score of matrimony, or indeed the tender passion, except it were to tell me, that he should be the most miserable wretch alive if I refused him the happiness of my hand—to Ranelagh.

My aunt would fain have had him more explicit upon these heads, and often urged him to come to an éclaircissement. But how can a man explain his meaning, when he has none ?

All his passions centered in dress, parade and vanity ; he was an utter stranger to all impure ideas of carnality. He was in love, it is true ; but then it was not with my person—but my negligee. He was always captivated with a woman in proportion

to her dress—and I lost my lover, because Miss D—— appeared that night at Ranelagh in the last new-fashioned silk, which I was not mistress of.

C H A P. IX.

Maria's revenge upon Dorimont—her triumph. Her aunt's remonstrances, with some small insight into the characters of Captain T—, and Sir Thomas B.

I Would readily have forgiven Miss D—— for having made so valuable a conquest, had her success been owing to her beauty, and not her dress; but it was a mortifying consideration to see myself slighted for a beldame that might have been my mother, without even the vestige of
a good

a good feature, as a remnant of antiquated charms. I was resolved to supply Dorimont's loss, and to convince him how much superior I was to my rival, as well in dress as person : though the expence of a new sack was what I could but ill afford at this juncture, my vanity, seconded by my aunt's approbation, made me resolve upon outshining Miss D— the very next night she appeared at Ranelagh.

I had scarce entered the amphitheatre, before I was accosted by two gentlemen with whom I had drank tea there, in company with Dorimont : their persons and appearance were perhaps the most elegant in the place ; so that, considering the pains I had taken to sparkle, we made one of the most striking groups in the

place. Dorimont had accompanied Miss D—— in her own coach ; we met him the very first round, he made a very low bow, and I turned my head aside. He blushed, and looked extremely confused, but still imputed my inattention to oversight ; so that, whilst the next song was singing, he came close to me, and asked me, in a loud whisper, “ Whether I intended to captivate every man in the place ? for the very ladies say, that you never looked so handsome before.” I replied, “ I was very much obliged to the ladies, and particularly Miss D——, who was doubtless a very great judge of beauty, as she had studied it so long.” This I pronounced with so audible a voice, that no one, within some yards, could avoid hear-

hearing; which produced so general a titter, that poor Dorimont did not attempt to say any more bright things that evening; but joined Miss D——, who had heard the compliment I paid her, with all imaginable precipitation.

This triumph over that consummate coxcomb did not a little gratify my spleen. Captain T—— said, he would certainly hang himself if he could muster up courage enough; and Sir Thomas B—— offered a hundred guineas to ten, that he would never be able to shew his face again at Ranelagh. The truth is, that neither Dorimont nor Miss D—— were any more visible that evening; and the next day, so strongly did the draught operate, a letter was published in one of the daily papers, re-

monstrating against the *ill-behaviour* of certain ladies in public places. Captain T—— took upon himself to answer it, and depicted in so lively a manner the character of the author, that Dorimont was obliged to go into the country for three months, to the irreparable loss of the ladies, and the great diminution of his conquests, to avoid being pointed at for the author of *remonstrances to the ladies*.

My vanity and self-importance were greatly magnified by these coquetish victories, and it cannot be at all surprizing that I should imagine I could at any time command the first nobleman in England, if I set seriously about it ; but this, I thought, it would be time enough to do when I had committed a little more slaughter with my charms. My aunt was,
how-

however, of a very different way of thinking; she conceived that I was very much to blame not to bring every man, who said a civil thing to me, to an *eclaircissement*. In this respect her prudence could not be condemned, as she foresaw, without extending her view to a very distant prospect, the entire annihilation of my fortune, by continuing the route we had now pursued for above eighteen months. “ Polly, said she to
 “ me one morning, I do not at all
 “ approve of carrying your severi-
 “ ty to that pitch, with regard to the
 “ men—you have already slighted
 “ above half a dozen good parties,
 “ that I am pretty certain you might
 “ have made sure of, had you play’d
 “ your cards right; you should strike
 “ whilst the iron is hot; when for-

“tune knocks, be sure to open the
 “door. You have, by your cruelty,
 “drove Dorimont into the country—
 “that Dorimont who might have
 “made you so good a husband—
 “He was a man, if I have any judg-
 “ment of the world, whom you might
 “have fashioned to your own like-
 “ing; you might have made him
 “think as you pleased, and act as
 “you chose; besides, he had a good
 “fortune, and was very much of the
 “gentleman.”

I could not help interrupting her
 here: “Indeed, aunt, said I, his
 “fortune could not be very great,
 “or else he always behaved in
 “a very scrubby manner; for, if
 “you observed, he constantly let us
 “pay for ourselves whenever we went
 “to a public place with him; and
 if

“ if he accompanied us in a coach, he
 “ contrived to frame some excuse for
 “ leaving us to come back by ourselves,
 “ that he might avoid bearing the
 “ expence upon our return.—And
 “ with regard to his being very much
 “ of the gentleman, I am sorry to
 “ find your notions of gentility are
 “ confined to such beings—such rep-
 “ tiles as Dorimont:”

“ Well, resumed my aunt, it is
 “ needless to talk any more about
 “ him—good or bad, he is gone,
 “ and it is in vain to repine.—But
 “ here is the Captain, who has been
 “ dangling after you these three
 “ months, and I do not find you are
 “ an hour nearer bringing him to an
 “ explanation, than you were the ve-
 “ ry first night you met him at Rane-
 “ lagh. Besides, if you do not like

“ the Captain, though to be sure he is
 “ very handsome, and quite the gen-
 “ tleman ; there is Sir Thomas
 “ B——, he is rich enough to make
 “ you a genteel settlement, I war-
 “ rant he would think nothing of five
 “ or six hundred a year for pin-mo-
 “ ney, keep you a sedan, a man
 “ out of livery for yourself, and every
 “ thing you could desire ;— then you
 “ might be of some little service to
 “ your friends that wish you well,
 “ without hurting yourself.” — “ But,
 “ dear aunt, said I, interrupting
 “ her, can I force the men to ex-
 “ plain themselves ? I should have
 “ no manner of objection to the Cap-
 “ tain, but I am afraid he has got
 “ little more than his pay. As to the
 “ Knight, to be sure, I should like
 “ him above all things ; a title is
 “ what

“ what I have always aimed at ; but
 “ he has never yet so much as hinted
 “ at matrimony—and after all, I am
 “ yet but very young. I may perhaps
 “ meet with something better than
 “ either of these—” When we had
 got thus far in our dialogue, we
 were interrupted by a rat-tat at the
 door, and a sedan chair, from whence
 issued a gentleman who had done me
 the honour of his hand the night be-
 fore, at a private ball, and who now
 did me the honour of waiting upon
 me to tea.

C H A P.

C H A P. X.

Some account of Maria's new lover.

The advances he makes, and her behaviour thereupon. A dialogue of courtship, very proper to be read by all young ladies, who think they may ever be in the same situation.

MR. Fitzherbert, my present visitor, was a native of Ireland ; but he had entirely divested himself of any peculiarity in his discourse or pronunciation, which most frequently distinguish the natives of that country. He was about five and twenty years of age, tall, genteel, and handsome ; he passed for a man of very considerable fortune, and pre-presumptive heir to a Coronet. Such
recom-

recommendations as these could not fail having their influence over me, more especially as he seemed by nature destined to charm our sex: he had the happy art of always pleasing in conversation, of suiting his discourse to his company, and ever furnishing something new and entertaining: but though these talents in general company made him constantly agreeable and desired, they were greatly eclipsed when put in competition with his tête-à-tête conversations, when he seemed to unite every thing that could charm and delight—he applauded without the appearance of flattery—he captivated without appearing emulous of conquest.

Such then was Mr. Fitzherbert, who now paid me his first visit, which

which was very short, but which was very soon repeated, and which from being ceremonial soon became familiar. He would drop in at breakfast, take a dinner, and sometimes stay to supper: he seemed to look upon himself already as one of the family, and took every opportunity of declaring his friendship: but still not a word of love occurred; it was full two months before he opened his lips upon this theme: I almost despaired that he would ever declare himself, when one afternoon, whilst he was sitting by me, and I was at work, he broke forth with a sigh, which I could not help responding to, though at the same time I asked him the cause of his grief. “My dear Miss, said he, why do
 “you ask me so perplexing a ques-
 “tion?”

"tion? At this very time I am the
 "happiest man in Europe—that sigh
 "did not flow from grief, but from
 "joy, which could be no otherways
 "expressed."—"Indeed, I replied,
 "it is very extraordinary that joy
 "should demonstrate itself in so very
 "doleful a manner."—"But pray,
 "Miss, said he, interrupting me,
 "upon what occasion did you give
 "vent to some discontent, if such
 "must be the cause of sighing?"
 This question did not a little discon-
 cert me; however, I had presence of
 mind sufficient to say, "That my
 "father, who was one of the ten-
 "derest parents, just then came in-
 "to my head."—"Upon my word,
 "replied he, hastily, I should ra-
 "ther have imagined you had been
 "thinking of a lover."—In saying
 this

this he caught hold of my hand, and kissed it with great rapture.

My aunt entered at this instant, which I was very glad of, as it saved me some confusion, though my face was pretty well covered with blushes. Tea was now prepared, and we had no opportunity of coming to any farther explanation that afternoon.

The next day, however, he took an opportunity of waiting upon me in the absence of my aunt. “ My
“ dear life, said he, in entering, I
“ am come to make a tender to you
“ of a virgin heart, that has not yet
“ been caught within the wiles of
“ love—will you accept of it with
“ as much sincerity as I offer it?

“ Upon my word, Sir, said I, you
“ quite astonish me with such a de-
“ claration,

“claration, I do not know what an-
“swer to make.”

“Shall I dictate to you, resumed
“he, only say that you accept of my
“offer, and I am completely happy.
“I will not pretend to ask your’s in
“return; that would be too much
“presumption, till such time as I
“have, in your opinion, merited
“it.”

“Indeed, Sir, I replied, you talk
“to me in a language that I am an
“utter stranger to—this may be very
“fashionable and elegant, but to an
“innocent, ignorant girl like me, it is
“absolutely thrown away upon her.”

“Oh! my Maria, said he, if
“you treat me in this coquettish
“manner, I am quite undone: lay
“aside that vanity and insolence of
“your sex, and be a rational crea-
“ture,

“ ture.—Do you consider that I am
 “ this moment upon the rack, and
 “ that every evasion you make is but
 “ an additional torture ?” He uttered
 these last words with so much seem-
 ing sincerity, and accompanied them
 so opportunely with a flood of tears,
 that I could not refrain joining con-
 cert in his affliction.

When I had somewhat recovered
 myself, and wiped away the tears I
 endeavoured to hide, “ What would
 “ you ask of me ? said I.” “ Only
 “ whether or not you completely hate
 “ me ?” he replied. If it will give you
 “ any satisfaction, I answered, to tell
 “ you I do not, that I readily will.”
 “ But, said he, do you think you
 “ could prevail upon yourself to
 “ conceive one favourable thought
 “ in my behalf.”—“ I have no rea-
 “ son,

“son, said I, to entertain any
 “other.”—“But then, said he, tak-
 “ing hold of my hand gently, do
 “you think I might ever share any
 “part of your esteem? Indeed, Sir,
 “I replied, I esteem every gentle-
 “man that behaves as such.”—“So
 “then, said he, I find I only parti-
 “cipate in general the benevolence
 “you extend to all mankind—Do
 “you think I can never hope to en-
 “gage one small quarter of your
 “heart, after I have so frankly
 “yielded you all mine?”—“Indeed,
 “Sir, it is difficult, I said, for me
 “so young to judge of my future
 “sentiments; but I must acknow-
 “lege I like you as well as any gen-
 “tleman I ever saw.”—“Then, my
 “angel, said he, you have made
 “me happy; if I have no rival, I
 “may

“ may hope, by perseverance, and a
 “ full demonstration of the extent of
 “ my passion, to merit some particu-
 “ lar regard in your eye.”

This was the substance of this conversation ; and he left me, after having made the most solemn declaration, that “ never yet had any female
 “ made the least impression upon his
 “ heart, but that he found the com-
 “ plete conquest was left for me,
 “ whose transcendent charms no
 “ man could dare resist.”

Upon my aunt's return, she was very inquisitive to know what had passed between me and Mr. Fitzherbert, and whether he had yet come to any terms? whether he had yet appointed the day for our nuptials? but above all, whether he had yet made me any present? I told her, in
 answer

answer, that he had said many civil things to me; but that they were such as every pretty woman ought to expect from a man with whom she is tête-à-tête. This information was no way satisfactory to my aunt; for she said *I should now profit of the opportunity* before his passion cooled, as he might perhaps meet with some other that he might think handsomer, or like better. I did not pretend to dispute with her any of these points, though in my opinion I fancied I had so perfectly rivetted him, that there could be no danger of a rival.

I retired early to rest, yet I got but very little sleep that night; I scarce closed my eyes for reflecting upon what Mr. Fitzherbert had said to me. I found he had made a complete conquest of my heart;
and

and yet there was something misgave me, that he did not mean honourably by me ; and I was resolved to have an explanation from him of this matter, the first time he renewed his conversation upon the score of love.

C H A P. XI.

The rupture between Maria and Mr. Fitzherbert, his letter upon the occasion, their reconciliation, the approach of their nuptials, and the preparation she makes.

MY lover was as constant to his hour
 —————As the dial to the sun,
 Although it be not shone upon.

He renewed his addreses, and pressed me hard to make a tender of my heart, and I plucked u

up courage enough to ask him upon what terms? “The most honourable in the world, he replied.” Why, then, Sir, said I, you may take what steps you please to convince me of your sincerity. He seemed somewhat disconcerted at this unexpected reply, and during the rest of his visit the conversation turned entirely upon indifferent things. The next day, however, he renewed the subject of his passion, saying, that now he was the happiest man in the world, and that he considered me already as his better part, “for after mutual consent, said he, all the rest is mere ceremony.”—“How, Sir, said I, do you look upon the holy institution of marriage as mere ceremony, that may be dispensed with whenever our inclination

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“ may prompt us to consider it in
 “ that light ? ” — “ My dear, said he,
 “ read scripture, and you will see
 “ our fore-fathers considered it en-
 “ tirely in this light, and I do not
 “ suppose we can pretend to be bet-
 “ ter than them ; besides, said he,
 “ there are so many obstacles now
 “ to surmount, and so many disa-
 “ greeable steps to be taken, since
 “ the marriage-act has passed, that
 “ all sensible people are entirely of
 “ opinion that it is only putting so
 “ much money in the priest’s pocket,
 “ to publish three weeks before
 “ hand to all the parish, that on such
 “ a night a girl is to lose her virgi-
 “ nity.”

His conversation did not a little
 alarm me, and I left him in an
 abrupt manner, saying, that since I
 found

found he and I differed so much in essentials, it was time we should discontinue our acquaintance. He would fain have prevented my going, but all his efforts were ineffectual, and I retired to my chamber, where I gave a full vent to my grief in a flood of tears. My aunt found me in this situation, and desired to know the reason ; to this I answered in general, that I believed Mr. Fitzherbert had no good intentions towards me : she asked me if he had offered me any rudeness ? To this I replied in the negative ; but added, I was certain, by the tenor of his discourse, that he had no design of making me his wife. Whilst we were thus canvassing Mr. Fitzherbert's late behaviour, a chairman brought a letter from him, which he had written

at an adjacent coffee-house, and which was nearly to the following purport.

“ My dear Miss,

“ I am extremely sorry that you
 “ should have taken any thing amiss
 “ which occurred in our conversa-
 “ tion this afternoon : if you form
 “ any bad opinion of me therefrom
 “ you are much to blame, for what
 “ I said I did not pretend to deliver
 “ as my sentiments, but what might
 “ be urged upon the occasion by any
 “ indifferent person. I beg you will
 “ not think me any way culpable
 “ for uttering what accidentally
 “ escaped from me without the least
 “ design of displeasing. If I have,
 “ however, offended you, prescribe
 “ the terms of my atonement, and
 “ I

“ I will readily submit to them—A
 “ general recantation of my errors,
 “ if you are of opinion that I ever
 “ adopted any, I am very ready to
 “ make, and to assure you by the
 “ most solemn of vows how much
 “ I am, and more than it is possible
 “ for words to express,

“ My dear angel,

“ Your most devoted servant.

*George's Coffee-house,
 Tuesday-afternoon.*

“ *C. Fitzherbert.*”

My eyes were too much involved
 in sorrow to be able to peruse this
 epistle ; so that my aunt, to whom I
 consigned it, having put on her spec-
 tacles, read it aloud, but not without
 making comments upon every pas-

sage, and concluding the whole with saying, “ This man can never
 “ mean ought but honourable, for
 “ you have it under his hand, so
 “ that you need be under no apprehensions.”

In this manner did my discerning aunt buoy me up with hopes, and prevail upon me to readmit his visits, though I was very far from being convinced of the sincerity of his intentions from this letter.

He appeared with seeming great contrition in his countenance upon his next visit, saying, “ he was
 “ convinced he had been in the
 “ wrong in asserting what he had
 “ done, but that they were far from
 “ his sentiments upon that subject,
 “ as he would have convinced me
 “ if I had given him time ; but that
 “ I

“ I bounced away from him in such
 “ a hurry, and in such a heat, that
 “ there was no such thing as setting
 “ any thing to rights.”

I told him in return, “ that I
 “ was very glad to find he was not
 “ of that way of thinking, and that
 “ it was upon that consideration only
 “ that I admitted him again to visit
 “ me, as what he said must have a-
 “ larmed every woman of a virtuous
 “ disposition, who paid the least re-
 “ gard to a gentleman’s addresses.”

In this manner was our reconcili-
 tion brought about, my aunt ob-
 serving in her usual trite proverbial
 style, “ that the quarrel of lo-
 “ vers was the renewal of love.”
 Things appeared now to go on
 swimmingly ; he said he should pro-
 cure a special licence, and absolutely

fixed upon a day for our nuptials. My time was employed in preparing my bridal cloaths, and I spared no expence upon the occasion, as I thought it would be paying my husband a compliment to appear as elegant as possible in quality of Mrs. Fitzherbert.

C H A P.

C H A P. XII.

She is persuaded against her inclination to go with Fitzherbert to a ball—takes her to a tavern near Soho—they wait for the company, who never come.—repeated expedients are used to prevail upon her to stay—He puts laudanum in her liquor, which brings on an involuntary sleep, when he deflowers her of her virginity.

WHILST things were in this situation, he came one afternoon in a great hurry, and told me he had received from a friend of his two tickets for a ball, which was to consist of nothing but the genteelest and most elegant company, particularly of the female kind, otherwise

he would not propose the party to me. I had been running about all that day from milliners to mercers, and from mercers to mantua-makers, and was so fatigued that the thoughts of dancing were sufficient to make me resolve upon retiring to rest: I therefore pleaded this excuse, and begged he would compliment some other lady with his ticket and his hand; but he could not think of such a thing as long as I was in being, and intreated me not to refuse him so small a favour. I still persevered, however, in not going, till my aunt joined in persuasion with him, and made use of all the arguments in her power, whispering to me that I should not refuse Mr. Fitzherbert any *reasonable request, as things were at present situated.* This last argument had

had more force than all the rest, and at length, much against my inclination, I agreed to accompany him.

Upon our arrival at the place where the ball was fixed upon, he inquired of the waiter for several gentlemen by name, and was answered they were not yet come, so that we were shewn into a room to wait for their arrival. Though this was the first time in my life that I was ever in a tavern with a man alone, I had not the least apprehensions of danger, as I considered myself at present with no other than my husband; so that I readily consented to drink a glass of wine, and appeared as chearful as the occasion required.

An hour elapsed in this manner, before any of our expected compa-

nions arrived, and I began to testify some apprehensions that we should be disappointed, and to signify that it were better we returned ; but he appeared very positive there could be no disappointment, as the persons who had invited him were to be at all the expence, which arose from some wagers that had been lost in that house a few evenings before, and that the money was already deposited in the landlord's hands. “ Besides, “ added he, if they do not come, I “ think we have a right to partake “ of the regale for the trouble we “ have taken.”

This last assertion I did not altogether admire, as I imagined it looked as if he was already reconciled to a supper without a dance, and I now pressed him more than ever to go :
he

he repeatedly rung the bell to inquire if any of the gentlemen were come yet, and he was constantly answered in the negative.

We had already drank a bottle of champaign, and I began to find my head somewhat giddy, which made me resolutely refuse touching another glass, though he greatly importuned me ; and I ordered the waiter to call me a coach, as I was fearful my giddiness might increase.

Some expedient was now necessary to make me stay ; the waiter returned, and said there was never a coach upon the stand ; I then ordered a chair, but the same difficulty presented itself in this respect, and I found myself under the disagreeable necessity of either walking home, in the midst of a heavy rain, dressed as
I was,

I was, or staying till such time as the waiter thought proper to procure a conveyance.

Whilst I remained in this disagreeable situation a card was brought Mr. Fitzherbert, intimating that one of the ladies who was to have been present, was taken suddenly ill, and that the dance was postponed till another opportunity. This message had its desired effect, I began to pity the lady, though I knew nothing of her, and was easily persuaded to be seated, when an elegant cold collation coming in, Mr. Fitzherbert insisted upon my eating, "saying it would do my head good;" and in this expectation I eat a wing of a fowl, and drank some small beer.

Supper

[III]

Supper was scarce taken away before such an uncommon drowsiness came over me, as I never before experienced, all my endeavours to keep awake were ineffectual, and in a few minutes I was overwhelmed with sleep——O ! that this had been the sleep of death, never to have waked again—But, alas ! I was brought back to life and shame by the cruel efforts of this perfidious man, to rob me of woman's most precious jewel !

The soporific draughts which he so treacherously imposed upon me, had now lost their force—the situation I was in too sensibly affected me to let even laudanum operate — my screams, my outcries, were all in vain—the deed was done, and it was but little consolation to upbraid
him

him with the appellations of villain,
 monster, and barbarian! He threw
 himself at my feet, and protested
 “ that he had struggled against nature
 “ reason became too weak---that
 “ I was so enchantingly beautiful as I
 “ slumbered, that an anchorite might
 “ have been pardoned for his crime.
 “ Besides, continued he, my dear
 “ Maria, are you not my wife, will
 “ not eight and forty hours conse-
 “ crate you mine by all laws human
 “ and divine? I have but just tasted
 “ of that delicious fruit, which has
 “ given a greater edge to my appetite,
 “ and I shall think every moment
 “ an age, till the delectable banquet
 “ is served in form.”

Tears were now my only reply,
 whilst he endeavoured by every so-
 phisticated argument to persuade
 me

me that he was infinitely more ena-
moured with me than ever. “ Your
“ face, he said, it is true, has ir-
“ resistible charms—but those beau-
“ ties which I have just explored,
“ are what most eminently intitle
“ you to a superiority over the rest
“ of your sex—

“ Where am I ! surely paradise is round me !
“ Sweets planted by the hand of heav’n grow
“ here,
“ And every sense is full of thy perfection.
“ To hear thee speak might calm a madman’s
“ phrenzy,
“ ’Till by attention he forgot his sorrows;
“ To touch thee, that’s heaven—but to enjoy
“ thee,
“ O ! thou nature’s whole perfection in one
“ piece,
“ Sure in framing thee heav’n took un-
“ usual care,
“ Like it’s own beauty it design’d thee fair,
“ And form’d thee by the best lov’d angel
“ there.

“ Pardon

“ Pardon my rapture, my life,
 “ but nothing but the words of that
 “ inimitable poet could express the
 “ amazing sensations I have just felt.

C H A P. XIII.

Maria is prevailed upon to acquiesce to his intreaties, by the solemn promises he makes of marriage. Her disappointment—the effect it has upon her health.

IT was near three in the morning before we returned, but the hour gave my aunt no suspicion of what had passed; and he had so completely persuaded me, that it was for my honour and future happiness to keep it an entire secret, that I was resolved not to divulge it. He returned next day, and brought me a ring, which

which he told me would unite us for ever; he put it on, “and now, said he, “my angel, I hope you are persuaded of my sincerity.—All your apprehensions must now vanish, as I “hereby declare you my wife in the “face of heaven and earth; and to-morrow’s sun shall witness my “vows before the altar.”

I must own that he uttered this with so much solemnity, and appeared so perfectly blessed with what had passed the preceding night, that he, at length, persuaded me, there could be no crime in the repetition.

Here, perhaps, in the eyes of the scrupulously virtuous, I was an accessory to his guilt; and though I might before have conscientiously pleaded his treachery, for having robbed me of my virginity, as I now

voluntarily made a sacrifice of my chastity, I can no longer urge my innocence, or claim protection at the altar of virtue. But, alas! when it is considered that I was now entirely at his mercy, and that methought prudence told me I should not take any step that might give him the least disgust; I imagined it would be acting contrary to my interest, and that I should in some measure be instrumental in my own ruin, if I refused him any thing he asked.—The reasoning of a girl of seventeen upon such an occasion, added to the importunity of a man possessed of every artifice to impose upon our sex, might easily induce me to throw off any farther reserve to him who had already obtained the first fruits of enjoyment.

Every

Every circumstance united to favour his design.—My aunt was gone to market, and had taken the maid with her, so that there was not a soul in the house but he and myself;—he found me in my deshabille, before I had put on my stays, and he followed me into my bed-chamber, whilst I was still at my toilet, and where I could not plead even the danger of rumpling the bed, for it was not yet made.

He caught me in his arms, and, almost drowning me with kisses, threw me upon the bed, whilst, in a kind of trance, I granted all he could desire: we were still in this situation when my aunt rapped at the door, and I had scarce time to adjust my cloaths in such a manner as to give her no suspicion, before she

came

came into my apartment, and gave me a long, and, at present, very tedious account of her marketing, and the preparations she had been making to celebrate my nuptials.

Upon his departure that evening, he promised to come at eight next morning, and accomplish what he had so solemnly vowed. Sleep never approached my eyes that night; such a variety of thoughts forced themselves upon me, which caused a perturbation of mind that would let me no longer remain in bed. As soon as Aurora began to dawn, I rose and dressed myself, and began to make such preparations as were necessary for the expected awful event; every instant seemed a year till eight o'clock struck;——but when that hour was passed, each moment now increased

creased my fears, and I would gladly have recalled even those tedious instants to have been possessed of equal hope.

Nine, ten, eleven, twelve, all struck, but no Mr. Fitzherbert appeared.—I now lost all patience, and dispatched a messenger to his chambers in the Temple, to inquire the reason: the porter returned, without being able to see any body, or make any body hear. This was a dagger to my heart; all his treachery at once blazed before me, and I threw myself upon the bed, devoted to despair.

My aunt came and attempted to afford me such consolation as she thought might alleviate my affliction; but every argument she offered, so little was she acquainted with
the

the real state of my case, instead of diminishing my sorrow, by far increased it. “ She bid me to despise
 “ such a wretch who had no regard
 “ for his promise, and said, that,
 “ in her opinion, I had a very lucky
 “ escape, to avoid a man of such base
 “ principles.” I should have thought
 so too, had her words been completely verified.—“ Forget him, said
 “ she, there are men enough in the
 “ world more valuable than him;
 “ you have youth, beauty and virtue
 “ on your side, which are great recommendations; but more especially the last, as no woman that
 “ possesses it need ever to despair.”
 A hundred poignards darted at once to my soul at this reflection, my tears streamed with double rapidity, and my anguish was so great that I
 swooned

fwooned, unable to support nature under so arduous a conflict.

An apothecary was sent for immediately, who bled me, and ordered what he imagined proper medicines for a female deeply afflicted with an hysterical disorder, which he pronounced to be my case. Grief and despair reigned with such unlimited sway over me, that I very narrowly escaped with my life. I was brought to so low a state, that I was scarce able to walk at the end of six weeks; and a letter, which I received from my inhuman betrayer, had nearly operated as strongly upon me as the first cause of my affliction.

C H A P. XIV.

A letter she receives from Fitzherbert—her indignation is fired at it—resolves to despise and forget him—re-appears in publick—her hopes revive;—a most fatal discovery, which blasts all her expectations,—her aunt's behaviour upon the occasion.

THE second day after I had got down stairs, having been confined to my room for near six weeks, the post-man rapped at the door, and brought a letter directed to Miss Maria Brown. I trembled from head to foot at the sight of the hand, which I knew to be Fitzherbert's, and had scarce power to break the seal; my aunt would willingly have

have saved me the trouble, but my apprehensions lest he should have been base enough to hint at any thing that had passed between us to my prejudice, made me take the resolution of perusing it myself.

“ Miss,

“ You will doubtless be surprized hear from me, after so long an absence, and so continued a silence; you have, perhaps, a thousand times upbraided me with perfidy, and those common accusations your sex are so apt to bestow upon those men who are not silly enough to be caught in the flimsy nets of artifice, which you are so constantly employed in working for us.

“ In a word, Madam, I found myself greatly imposed upon, with re-

spect to your fortune and expectations. Your aunt, and yourself, frequently gave me to understand, that you was heiress to a very ample fortune when you came of age ; whereas, according to the best information which I have had in the neighbourhood where you was born, and where your mother still resides, I find that your father left you only a few hundred pounds. This being the case, you will not think I act an ungenerous part in giving up all pretensions to you, and wishing you all the success your beauty and your merit may intitle you to.

I am, Miss,

Your most obedient
humble servant,

Cork, June

20.

Charles Fitzherbert.

What

What a transition from the extatic transports which he promised himself at the delectable banquet of my charms—a cold phlegmatic letter of bargain and sale, worthy of a horse-jockey in Smithfield! Such indifference from a man on whom I had fixed my heart; whom I looked upon as the partner of my future life, might have preyed upon my spirits, which were still greatly depressed, had not my indignation fired at the insult.—I resolved to despise a wretch that could act upon such base, and talk upon such mercenary principles.

I endeavoured to erase the idea of Fitzherbert entirely from my mind, and to this end I once more appeared in publick; every one complimented me upon my recovery, and

G 3. I thought

I thought I had as fair a prospect as ever of making my fortune—when a discovery, which forced itself upon me, blasted all my hopes, and darkened all my future days with black despair.—I was three months gone with child, before I was convinced of my pregnancy, so great a novice was I in affairs of this nature. I had no friend to whom I dared to divulge the secret: my aunt's declared detestation against every slip of chastity assured me, there I should find no asylum; besides, my influence diminished in proportion as my small fortune lessened: and she had ere now thrown out some hints that she should be obliged very soon to give up house-keeping, as she could not pretend to support it any longer, without some good lodgers; and that she

she had an offer made her of taking care of an old gentleman's house in the country, which she thought, in her present circumstances, it would be very imprudent for her to refuse.

She had frequently been very in-quisitive into the reason of my eating nothing with my tea at breakfast, had put some questions to me concerning some monthly female secrets, and seemed greatly surprised at my frequent reachings; yet she had never taxed me with the fact: but, alas! my apron-string soon became too short, and there was no hiding the cause.

Instead of reading me a lecture without end upon the score of virtue and religion, intermingled with severe reprimands and menaces, as I expected, she seemed to take no sort

of notice of the discovery she had made, and I was in hopes I should have been able to have made her connive at the accident, and endeavour to hide my misfortune from the world; but when my expectations were, in this respect, raised to their highest pinnacle, they were soon levelled with the basis of despair.

She told me one morning, at breakfast, that the house was let, and that she should dispose of her furniture in a fortnight's time, and therefore gave me that notice, that I might provide myself with an apartment in time; in saying this, she left me very abruptly, to make my reflections upon her conduct.

C H A P. XV.

Her aunt's ingratitude highly exemplified; a few strictures upon that execrable crime. The step Maria is obliged to take, and the approach of a critical period.

WE never conversed upon the subject of my misfortune till the morning I was to leave my aunt, and repair to a lodging I had taken in Silver-street, Soho. My fortune, as the reader may imagine, was at this time pretty well exhausted,—it consisted of exactly five guineas; the assistance I had given her, during my residence with her, might very well have intitled me to some share of the money which arose from the sale of the goods, which she was this very day

G. 5 to

to receive; but, in order to prevent my grafting any hopes upon that foundation, she made me the following exhortatory and edifying discourse.

“ I have never yet upbraided you
 “ with your infamy, though it has
 “ been shocking to my sight for some
 “ months, and has, in a great measure,
 “ induced me to take the step
 “ I now do of disposing of my goods
 “ to pay my debts, and retire into
 “ the country. But now that I am
 “ going to leave you, and shall perhaps
 “ never see you again, I think
 “ it is time for me to say a few
 “ words to you. After the shame
 “ and dishonour you have brought
 “ upon yourself, you cannot expect
 “ that any of your friends or relations
 “ can look upon you; I should be
 frightened

| frightened out of my senses at the
 ' thoughts of your calling me aunt a
 ' month's hence, when all the world
 ' must be convinced of your prosti-
 " tution. There is nothing left for
 " you to do, but to go and hide
 " yourself in some corner of the
 " world, where no body knows you,
 " that you may be no farther a dis-
 " grace to your relations; and when
 " you have got rid of that shameful
 " burden, write to the Abbess of your
 " convent at Douay, and endeavour
 " to be re-admitted, that you may,
 " by a life of exemplary piety, en-
 " deavour to atone for those deadly
 " sins you have been guilty of. As
 " to me, you know my circum-
 " stances, it is not in my power to
 " assist you, if I would.—Besides, I
 " should think it a very great sin to

“ encourage vice.—You are a scan-
 “ dal to religion, honour, and de-
 “ cency; and therefore never apply
 “ to me, or expect to hear from me
 “ any more.”

Ingratitude is certainly the native offspring of Satan, it could be engendered in none but an infernal breast; it is an epitome of all the crimes mankind can be guilty of: yet it grows and thrives in every soil—all professions adopt it—each sex practise it. If there is some particular curse above destined for the punishment of superlative villainy, this must be the object!

After having expended my small fortune in supporting such a monster, she casts me, in my greatest distress, upon the world, without the ability of any way supporting
 my-

myself. Nay, not only this, but she informs all my acquaintance of what she has discovered, and writes to all my relations, to give them the same intimation, that she may, in her opinion, exculpate her barbarous conduct.

After such an harangue, there required but little ceremony to take leave of such a monster. I turned upon my heel, and left her to the stings and adders which she engendered in her own breast.

The gentlewoman at whose house I had taken a lodging, was one of those good-natured pliant sort of women, who can conform themselves to any thing: though she perceived I was pregnant, she asked me no questions either concerning my marriage, or my husband. This was
a very

a very agreeable circumstance to me, for I was very fearful, lest, by her inquisitive interrogations, I might have been obliged to come to such an explanation as would have greatly disconcerted me, and prevented my having any future society with her.

For near two months, then, I passed my time tolerably agreeable with my landlady, though I was not at times without some very mortifying reflections at the silence my mother observed, notwithstanding I had wrote her several letters. At the end of this period I found my money all gone, and myself very near my time.

CHAP.

C H A P. XVI.

Acquaints her landlady with her situation and distress—who procures her a ticket for the lying-in hospital—is delivered there—her child dies.—Her acquaintance with Mrs. Freemantle, and her affecting story.

IT was in vain now to make a secret to my landlady of my present situation; she, in some measure, anticipated the necessity I was under of disclosing my mind. She observed to me, without any sort of ceremony, that it was high time, if I had not already done it, to prepare some child-bed linen, for that, if she judged right, I must be very near my time. I was very well con-

convinced of the rectitude of her observation; but in my present situation I was unable to follow her advice. As I had found her so good a sort of woman, I resolved to disclose my mind, and tell her the truth. She said, if that was the case, she believed she could make interest for me to get into the lying-in hospital, where I should be at no expence; and she accordingly procured me a ticket.

I was very well received there, considering it was an hospital; but, notwithstanding the care and attention of the doctors, the child died the third day after its birth, which was occasioned, no doubt, by my illness immediately after my pregnancy, and the succeeding anxiety of mind I laboured under.

Whilst

Whilst I remained in the hospital, I had sufficient time to ruminate upon my past follies, the treachery and deceit of man and woman kind: however, my disagreeable moments were in some measure alleviated by the acquaintance. I here made with an agreeable woman, who was come upon the same errand as myself; but whose history was, in many respects, very different from mine: she had something in her so extremely engaging, that I could not help being highly prepossessed in her favour, and very desirous of being acquainted with her story, which she entertained me with one day when we were all alone; and it made so great an impression on me, that I can still remember many particulars of it.

My

“ My father, said she, was a
 “ wealthy farmer in the county of
 “ Essex, who had four daughters
 “ and a son; of the former number
 “ I made one. We were brought
 “ up in a manner suitable to our sta-
 “ tion; my mother designing her
 “ daughters for good house-wives,
 “ and her son for an honest farmer.
 “ We were neither taught French,
 “ to dance, nor fine needle-work;
 “ so that we retained all the rusticity
 “ of our station when we arrived at
 “ years of maturity. I was in my
 “ eighteenth year, when a gentle-
 “ man who was upon a visit to the
 “ squire, took a walk one morning
 “ into our yard, and spoke to me
 “ whilst I was churning: he asked
 “ me some questions concerning
 “ poultry, and I answered him with
 “ all

“ all the genuine simplicity of a
 “ country-lads. I had, at that time,
 “ not the most distant notion of
 “ love, nor could I conceive that he
 “ entertained any thoughts of me
 “ upon that score. However, the
 “ next day I received a letter from
 “ him, couched in such a stile that I
 “ could scarce understand ; yet I
 “ comprehended enough to know
 “ he meant a great many fine com-
 “ pliments upon my person and good
 “ housewifery, which, he said, he
 “ thought the greatest commenda-
 “ tion in a wife. This letter threw
 “ me into the utmost perplexity, as
 “ he strongly pressed me to make
 “ him some answer ; and besides my
 “ ignorance of writing in a manner
 “ proper for such a fine gentleman
 “ to read, I conceived it would be ve-
 ry

“ry forward and improper for a girl
 “of my years to attempt such a
 “thing. I was ruminating upon
 “this matter, when I saw him ap-
 “proach our house; I ran as hard
 “as possible, and locked myself in-
 “to the pantry. From my ambush
 “I heard him ask for my father,
 “and I was now more terrified lest
 “he should discover to him that he
 “had wrote me a letter, which I
 “had not acquainted my mother
 “with. After he was gone, my
 “father called me up, and told me,
 “if I was a good girl I should have
 “a silk gown at Easter; but that I
 “must say nothing to my sisters a-
 “bout it: this information could
 “not fail puzzling me more than
 “all the rest, and I was upon the
 “rack to know what had passed be-
 “tween

“tween the gentleman and my fa-
 “ther. The next morning my mo-
 “ther took me aside, and asked me,
 “with very good nature in her coun-
 “tenance, if I had not seen a strange
 “gentleman come to my father the
 “day before? I answered, Yes.
 “Why then, said she, how should
 “you like him for a husband? I
 “told her, I could not tell; but that
 “he seemed to me a very agreeable
 “man. Why look ye, continued
 “she, he has been talking to your
 “father about you, and has made
 “such proposals as cannot be refu-
 “sed, if you have no dislike to him.
 “At this information my little heart
 “fluttered to that degree that I was
 “unable to make her any answer;
 “but the colouring and perplexity
 “she conceived I was in, made her
 “very

“ very readily and justly conclude,
 “ that my modesty prevented my
 “ answering her in a manner agree-
 “ able to my thoughts; so that she
 “ left me, saying, “ Well, I shall
 “ bring you together, and then you
 “ may settle it between you.” “ She
 “ was as good as her word, for the
 “ very next afternoon the gentleman
 “ paid me a visit in form, and we
 “ were left together. He then said
 “ to me so many tender and agreeable
 “ things, that I do not recollect half
 “ of them at present; but the sub-
 “ stance of them was, that he should
 “ be the happiest man upon earth,
 “ if I would vouchsafe to give him
 “ my hand in marriage. Though
 “ my bashfulness prevented me giv-
 “ ing him an answer which my in-
 “ nocence would have dictated; he
 “ con-

“ construed my silence into consent,
 “ and, clasping me in his arms, he
 “ gave a thousand kisses, which
 “ seemed the sweetest I ever knew in
 “ my life. This gentleman, whose
 “ name and situation in life I was by
 “ this time acquainted with, was
 “ Mr. Freemantle, a considerable
 “ merchant in Coleman-street; so
 “ that I had reason to go down up-
 “ on my knees, and thank heaven
 “ for the great happiness that seemed
 “ prepared for me. We were mar-
 “ ried in a very short time, and con-
 “ tinued the most fond pair that ever
 “ heaven united for more than seven
 “ years, during which time I bore
 “ him three children, who are all
 “ now living. I was again preg-
 “ nant, when an unexpected mis-
 “ fortune destroyed all our felicity,
 and

“ and rendered me as miserable as
 “ you now see me. For my father
 “ had unfortunately about two years
 “ before met with a considerable
 “ loss by the murrain raging amongst
 “ his cattle, and not being able to
 “ make good his payments, he was
 “ turned out of his farm, and had
 “ subsisted for some time upon Mr.
 “ Freemantle’s generous assistance;
 “ but the calamity now was, that
 “ Mr. Freemantle was no longer
 “ able to assist him, or himself ei-
 “ ther.

“ Three different failures abroad,
 “ wherein he was very deeply con-
 “ cerned, and two at home, render-
 “ ed him unable to make good his
 “ payments : he was declared a
 “ bankrupt; and though his known
 “ good character and constant up-
 “ right-

“rightness of conduct in business
“had always secured him from ma-
“lice and calumny; yet two of
“his creditors were so malevolent
“that they would not sign his certi-
“ficate. He went abroad, and in a
“short time died of grief, when I
“was in the eighth month of my
“pregnancy; and the only resource
“I had was this hospital, where I
“have been delivered.”

H

CHAP.

CHAP. XVII.

Some reflections upon the erroneous custom of the world, illustrated with the sketch of a few modern characters drawn from real life.

ONE might be inclined to imagine that our sex had drawn upon them the particular vengeance of heaven, and yet we could have no hand in bringing on the judgment upon the city of Gomorrah; but we seem to be pointed out the peculiar objects of punishment for natural crimes, if such there are. A man may live by gaming, be known for a prostitute of our sex, may fail in trade, and defraud his creditors; nay, he may be guilty of murder, under certain modifications, and

and yet the generality of the world will neither despise him, nor discountenance him. On the contrary, if he should happen to be successful in the course of his villainy, he will be cherished and esteemed by those who class themselves among the honest and worthy. But, alas! if we do but once deviate from the track delineated by custom on the chart of chastity (which, if any, is but a subordinate virtue), if we attempt to pass but one barrier without paying toll, or only mistake the intended barrier, we are arraigned at the bar of *honour*, and our *reputation* is pronounced irreparable by a jury of *prudes* and *old maids*!

To illustrate this by examples: Jack Gayless started upon the town with a hundred pounds for his patri-

mony, he laid out two-thirds of his fortune in a suit of velvet, one trimmed, and a plain pompadour, half a dozen pair of silk stockings, two pair of point ruffles, a sword, and Hoyle's games complete. He was master of an insinuating address, he constantly sacrificed his sentiments to good breeding, and applauded with a scringe. Jack was taken notice of by a man of fashion, who introduced him to lady N——'s rout; this was sufficient, he had cards on every hand as invitations; by a proper change of his cloaths, throwing in a fresh parament, or new waistcoat, he appeared to have as great a variety of cloaths as any man in town; the world judge by appearances, and no one questioned his being a man of fashion. Tho' he had the good luck to be thus
speedily

speedily initiated into the best company, he as yet derived no other advantage from it than wearing out his cloaths by the friction of lace and embroidery, and having opportunities of saying civil things to the first and finest women in England. He foresaw his destiny ; he had now broke in upon the last ten pounds he was possessed of, and only to have hinted to his introducer that he was in distress, would have been sufficient to have removed all future regard towards him. In this dilemma he was upon the point of terminating a life that wore so very unfavourable a prospect ; he had absolutely charged his pistol, and was upon the desperate, tremendous brink of eternity, when a thought entered his head that made him defer the execution of

this dreadful plan. He applied to the conjuror, and gave him one half of his fortune, to teach him his dexterity. Jack was an apt scholar, and tho' he had perused Mr. Hoyle with great attention, and understood his treatise perhaps better than the writer did himself, he had never yet reaped any advantage from his knowledge; he constantly lost his money, as he constantly held bad cards. But now the scene was changed, he had matadors at will, and fansprendres at command; he soon recruited his finances, unloaded his pistol, and is now in every sense a *real man of fortune*.

Captain H—— has been upon half-pay these seven years, he laid out all his fortune in the purchase of this commission, and run in debt for mere *subsistence*, till he was taken notice of

of by Mrs. L——, who afforded him full pay, and good quarters. He makes no secret of his connexion, and all the world is acquainted with his resources. When his taylor brings him home a new suit of cloaths, he draws upon his female banker, and she does honour to his draught; his coach-maker throws the Captain and chariot into her bill, and he thus drives thro' life in luxury and extravagance, without any one arraigning or disputing his honour. His trades-people give him the best of reputations; and his friends, who are of the most elevated sort, pronounce him a very honest fellow, and much of a Gentleman.

Dick Cone was bred a wholesale grocer, he married a woman the first year he set up with 10,000 l. and broke the next for 20: his wife died

the third year, and his credit revived with his second nuptials; five thousand pounds, which matrimony again threw into his coffers, enabled him to open a new shop, and carry on trade with as much vigour as ever. But there is a fatality in some men's affairs; he failed once more, and once more made a composition of five shillings in the pound. Dick's probity has never yet been called in question; he is again established in an extensive trade and full credit.

How contrasted to these is the fate of the unhappy Leonora! Though she has been guilty of no vice, and is not susceptible of a crime, she is shunned by the women, and laughed at by the men. She acted, in her opinion, upon the most virtuous plan a woman could pursue; she would listen to no man till
he

he offered her his hand in marriage : yet she was as distant from a prude, as she was different from a coquet ; she neither attempted to make the men believe that the very sight of them terrified her, or that every man who came into her company would find no difficulty, the first opportunity he had, of putting the question : she pursued the desirable medium, and at length listened to a man who had all the appearance of making her happy. In a word, they were married at the Savoy chapel ; the marriage proved to be void by law, and she has undergone all the rigour of the most severe sentence upon the most criminal conduct. Poor Leonora !—But why do I pity her, and forget myself ? Is not my case still more cruel !—With how much jus-

tice may I cry out with the author
of my motto,

Under how hard a fate are women born,
Praised to their ruin, or exposed to scorn?
If they want beauty, they of love despair,
And are besieged like frontier towns if fair.

C H A P. XVIII.

Mrs. Freeman's friendship to Maria;
recommends her to Lady Bentley,
as a companion upon her voyage to
Paris. Their journey.

THE reflections in the last
chapter may seem somewhat
premature for a woman (for such I
must now consider myself) of my age;
but though they were not made per-
haps entirely at that time, they cer-
tainly must be allowed to be no way
inapplicable.

To

-To resume my history. Upon my return from the hospital, I found my landlady had taken particular care of my cloaths, and what belonged to me; and though she knew I was not at present able to make her amends for her kindness and assiduity, she nevertheless took every opportunity of demonstrating her friendship to me. She told me to be careful of my health, and to consider that providence seemed to interpose in my behalf, by taking that young cherubim, which I had given to the world, to a happier lot than any mortal can here possess. In a word, she used all her endeavours to afford me consolation in my distress, saying at the same time:

“ she was under no apprehension a-
 “ bout the trifle of rent I was in-
 “ debted to her, and therefore bid me

“ be under no kind of uneasiness up-
 “ on that score ; and that she did not
 “ doubt but she should soon be able
 “ to procure me a place to wait upon
 “ a Lady, as she had very good
 “ friends in the best of families, ha-
 “ ving served as housekeeper for ma-
 “ ny years in one of the first of dis-
 “ tinction.”

Mrs. Freeman (that was my land-
 lady's name) was in a short time as
 good as her word ; she told me, there
 was a Lady going over to Paris, who
 wanted a companion who had been
 well brought up, and could speak
 French ; and she said she thought I
 was thoroughly qualified for the sta-
 tion. She accordingly gave me the
 Lady's direction, and I waited upon
 her the next day.

Lady

Lady Bentley seemed completely satisfied with me upon Mrs. Freeman's recommendation, and we agreed for twenty pounds a year, with all expences of the journey defrayed. We were to set out for France in a week's time, and I had therefore but a very short time to prepare myself for the voyage.

I took my leave of Mrs. Freeman, after repeated protestations of future friendship, and coming to a resolution of keeping up our correspondence by letters whilst I should be abroad.

We met with nothing remarkable in our journey to Dover, without I were to mention the post-chaise breaking down a little this side Canterbury, which greatly terrified Lady Bentley,

Bentley, and frightened her favourite lap-dog almost into fits. But all the company having soon recovered, we arrived at the ship-tavern with keen appetites, and a fair wind for Calais. We had scarce time to swallow a hasty supper, when we were summoned to go on board the packet, which was just ready to sail.

Though the wind was very fair when we got out of Dover-pier, it soon chopped about, and we were obliged to put back to the Downs. It now blew very fresh, and there was what the sailors call a great swell. Her Ladyship had scarce got out of Dover-pier, before she evinced the emetic qualities of the seas; so that her sickness was in some measure abated when the billows began to roar, and she heard *all bands aloft*; she

she had now time to reflect upon her danger, and she very religiously went upon her knees, and most fervently prayed to be preserved from her present danger, promising never again to dare the perils of the main.

Her Ladyship's devotion continued during our whole passage, and, for the good of her soul, it were to have been wished that she had made an East-India voyage; for no sooner did she set foot on shore at Calais, than she resumed her former gaiety, and never cast another thought towards futurity.

Monsieur *Grandfire* did all that lay in his power to accommodate her Ladyship, agreeable to her rank and dignity; and after we had stayed two nights and part of the second day, he was so very condescending as to oblige

oblige my mistress with his own post-chaise, which had never yet been used; for which, it may be imagined, he did not forget to charge her in proportion to her quality; our bill, besides the hire of the post-chaise, amounted to above three hundred livres.

Lady Bentley had not the curiosity to stop a moment upon the road till we came to Chantilli, so impatient was she to get to Paris; but the chateau and gardens of the Prince de Conde greatly attracted her sight, and she could not refrain from alighting to view them. In truth, they were well worth the time we employed in the inspection, as the chateau of Chantilli may be pronounced one of the first and most elegant seats in France.

C H A P.

C H A P. XIX.

Arrive at Paris. The impositions that are attempted to be put upon Lady Bentley, detected by Maria, who is notwithstanding supplanted in her favour by a French chambermaid. A lively description of the manner of an English Lady of fashion passing her time at Paris, in a letter from Miss Brown to Mrs. Freeman.

UPON our arrival at Paris we were lodged in a hôtel-garni, in the Fauxbourg of St. Germain, and we were presently waited upon by all those leeches who call themselves *marchands*, and who accumulate fortunes by fleecing foreigners, particularly the English. Lady Bentley

ley spoke very little French, having never been in France, and was therefore utterly ignorant as well of the manner as the coin of the country; so that every moment would have furnished opportunities to those who were desirous of imposing upon her, had she not had a person with her more conversant in both than herself. As by speaking the language very fluently, and knowing the difference of the coins, they were kept in some sort of awe, so I had frequent overtures made me indirectly by these *tricheurs*, to cheat as much as we could, and share of the spoils; but I constantly rejected such infamous proposals with the resentment they deserved, and always acquainted my Lady with the parties that had made them.

Not

Notwithstanding my honest and upright conduct towards her, a French chambermaid found means to gain so much upon her confidence, that from the moment she came into the house I found my advice rejected, and all regard towards me daily diminishing.

In the mean while, it may not be unentertaining to the reader to know how we passed our time at Paris, the center of English folly, and the point of gravity of English guineas. I believe I shall not be able to convey a better idea of our vocations and avocations here, than by transcribing a letter to Mrs. Freeman, which I wrote upon the spot, when I was a complete mistress of the subject, after a month's sojourning in this metropolis.

DEAR

DEAR MADAM,

YOU will doubtless accuse me of forgetfulness, if not ingratitude, for having preserved so long and so profound a silence; I must acknowledge it was not for want of matter to write, for one can turn on no side but objects sufficient present themselves to discant upon in a folio. The truth is, this metropolis abounds so much with dissipation and frivolity, one has scarce time to think, much less to write. Our morning is taken up, like all the Paris Ladies, in endeavouring to make ourselves hideous; we paint, not to look handsome, but to be in the fashion; every woman is intitled to rouge, in proportion to her quality; and they have so thoroughly reconciled themselves

to

to the custom, that their public writers reason upon it philosophically :
 “ When Cæsar made his triumphant
 “ entry into Rome, he made use of it ;
 “ and a pretty woman should consider every day as a day of triumph
 “ for her.” Thus says one of their favourite authors, and every woman here is convinced of the rectitude of his maxim. But, to continue our journal : our face is not the only object of our morning-attention, the head makes a very essential part of the toilet, and takes up no small share of the forenoon ; sometimes indeed it lays claim to a greater part of the business of the day, than all our pleasures and amusements. My Lady has actually been under the hand of Monsieur Frisonette ever since nine o’clock, and it is now half past one ;
 she

she will be ready for dinner (at least it will be ready for her) in half an hour. She will have the Marquis de Tarafiné, the Comte le Beau, and the Abbé le Moux, who will say a thousand soft things to her, sing her all the new airs, perhaps sit down to quadrille, and win all her money : if this should be the case, as it has often been, I may in all likelihood be dispatched with her casquet to Mendez for a new recruit, to brave the matadors, who have ever yet been inexorable to her prayers ; and about two in the morning she may go to rest, very little disposed for it, with a light purse and a heavy heart.

Perhaps you may think this a very odd way of living in a foreign country, whither people resort for pleasure and improvement ; you may
con-

conceive, that, if we go on so, we shall return without having had much satisfaction, or reaping any other advantage than the killing of time, at the price of our money. But we go to-morrow to Versailles, and as I know you have always expressed a desire, to know whether the beauty and elegance of that palace came up to the accounts of travellers, especially Frenchmen, I shall have an opportunity of satisfying your curiosity in this respect. From hence we shall follow the court to Fontainebleau and Compeigne. Believe me,

DEAR MADAM,

Your's affectionately,

M. Brown.

CHAP.

C H A P. XX.

A jaunt to Versailles, with some short account of that celebrated place. An accident which terminates in Maria's dismissal from Lady Bentley's service.

WE went next day to Versailles, agreeable to the plan of the Marquis de Tarafiné, who accompanied us, in order to shew us the apartments, and every thing that was curious. He informed us of the immense sums Lewis XIV. had expended to raise that palace, and convert the gardens into the form we saw them; the difficulty he had of bringing water thither, contrary to the course of nature, for the use of the basons and the *jets-d'eau*. In a word, that, from
a poor

a poor contemptible village, whose name was scarce known even at Paris, he had rendered it one of the most magnificent places in all Europe. It is true that we found the building very sumptuous, the gallery extremely elegant, and the painting of the ceiling particularly fine ; but that in general the furniture was very ancient, and there was neither that neatness, nor what the French themselves call that *air-riant*, which is so striking in the apartments of all our elegant edifices in England. As to the gardens, they were doubtless extremely well laid out ; but the walks were insupportably dusty, for want of gravel ; many of the statues were mutilated, and most of the water-works were in a state of inactivity, by reason of the pipes being out of repair. Upon the whole, it conveyed

to us at once an idea of Lewis the Fourteenth's ambition, the sentiments of glory wherewith he animated the whole kingdom, and the present degeneracy of the French nation.

Whilst we were at Versailles an accident happened, which, though very trivial in itself, was not only the cause of my rupture with Lady Bentley, but, in some measure, of all the misfortunes which afterwards befell me. Lady Bentley had already adopted every part of French gallantry; she could hang upon a French Cavalier's arm in public, receive him at her *ruelle* in private, listen to *double-entendres*, and sometimes risque them herself. Nay, she had no objection to a tête-party, or even a retreat into a sylvan grove distant from intruders, to hear the voice of love. The Marquis

quis had told her, that the labyrinth would greatly divert her, and that he would wager a hundred louis that she did not find her way out all alone. Though she did not accept of the bett, she however resolved to attempt the task, and I was left with *Romeo* whilst the experiment was made.

Romeo ! cruel Romeo ! how could you leave me ! ruin me ! desert me ! It is very true, Romeo ran away from me, and I was undone. Lady Bentley was gone near an hour and a half, and upon her return, though I had no reason to suspect that she was ruffled either in her temper or any way else ; yet so it was, that all the reasoning I was mistress of could not calm her rage ; her *lap-dog* was gone, and I positively should go after it. A

chapter would not contain all the opprobrious epithets I was insulted with upon this occasion, which she the more lavishly poured out upon me, as the Marquis was ignorant of English, and consequently what she said.

Our journey back to Paris, whither we returned instead of continuing our route to Fontainebleau, in hopes of gaining some intelligence of Romeo, was very dusty and disagreeable; we heard of nothing but the dog, and the loss of the finest creature upon earth, all the way; the Marquis's utmost endeavours to solace her Ladyship were ineffectual.

Being returned to the metropolis, she dispatched messengers to every quarter of the city in quest of her favourite; and at the end of two days

no

no tidings being brought her of him, there were no bounds to her passion. I was compelled to leave her; she ordered me out of the house, and swore I should never set foot in it again, except I brought Romeo with me.

CHAP. XXI.

The picture of a finished coquette; the advances Fitzherbert makes to her, and the success of the addresses which he pays to her. An unexpected blow at the crisis of his fate, very proper to be perused with attention by every coxcomb within the bills of mortality.

WHO knows not the amiable, the enchanting Annabella, the toast of the gay and polite, the envy

of one half of her sex, and the subject of scandal for the other? She was just now in the meridian of her glory, followed and dangled after by every puppy of fashion, who fancied an embroidered coat or a feather intitled him to inchant every woman who looked at him. Annabella had too much good sense and discernment to be captivated by such external recommendations, she despised such suitors at the time they imagined they had made a complete conquest of her heart; she played them off, one against the other, each fancying himself the only happy man, and each equally duped by his presumption. This was certainly the very summit of coquetry; but she refined the character, and almost made it amiable. That there are men in the world who richly merit
such

such treatment, the reader is, I doubt not, by this time thoroughly convinced. What if Fitzherbert should be found amongst the number of her suitors, he who fancied, from his past success, that he was intitled to captivate all the sex, and make them submit at discretion? It was even so, the perfidious Charles was at length caught in those foils, which he had so often thrown out. Annabella was not insensible to his merit, she approved of his person, and could not refrain from commending his wit; but she knew his character, and was resolved to recriminate the anguish of her sex. She was perhaps the woman of the world the most suited for the task; for, besides the force of her charms, she was composed of such a temperament as to be inflexi-

ble to passion: a man might languish and die for months, ere she vented a single sympathetic sigh; she was a salamander amidst fire, a stoic in love; in a word, a finished coquette.

Such a picture of Annabella may be thought perhaps severe upon her; but distributive justice requires such characters in society. To crown her charms, and render her power irresistible, she had fifteen thousand pounds in her own possession.

Fitzherbert had now been the foremost upon the list of her lovers for some months, without ever being able to get an absolute answer from her, upon a question which he had put to her almost as often as he had an opportunity of being at a tête-à-tête. Without convincing him on her part, she

she was studious to give him indirect hints that she entertained a favourable passion for him. Whilst he was one day strenuously urging his suit upon his knees, and calling all the powers above to witness of the sincerity of his love, Sir George Airy unexpectedly entered ; Sir George had the day before obtained a promise from her, that she never would give her hand to any man but himself. Enraged at what he beheld, his passion would scarce give him leave to express it by words ; he was colouring red and white alternately, and calling forth all his philosophy to smother the effects of his violence, when Annabella took an opportunity of saying, she really thought Sir George laboured under some very violent agitation, and begged, if it was possible, that she

might administer him some relief.

“Madam, said he, let me cut that

“fellow’s throat, and I shall be easy

“presently.”—“Indeed, Sir George,

“she replied, I have no manner of

“aversion to it, if he is agreeable.”

Fitzherbert fired at this conversation,

his sword was unsheathed ere Anna-

bella had finished her answer. “Sir,

“said he to the Knight, if you think

“cutting my throat will give you any

“relief, you are extremely welcome.”

By this time they had begun to thrust,

and Annabella thought it was time

to ring the bell, to prevent any in-

human blood being spilt; the ser-

vants did not however come time

enough to prevent Sir George’s re-

ceiving a wound in the sword-arm.

This was a triumph to Fitzher-

bert, which he did not fail to turn to

his

his advantage ; he pleaded with double urgency his passion, he pleaded his service, nay he pleaded his courage : he rallied the troops in the service of his merits in so warlike a manner, that he vanquished all Annabella's objections, and made her capitulate to surrender the garrison of love, with all her charms, upon a carte-blanche of matrimony, the succeeding Wednesday.

The trophies of Fitzherbert's victories were displayed in every mercer's shop in town ; he ransacked Ludgate-hill and Covent-garden, to testify his adoration of Annabella ; she courteously accepted of his presents. The whole art of his taylor was exhausted to display his taste in a wedding-suit.

The auspicious morn at length arrived, his new-gilt chariot was at Annabella's door by seven; she had been at a rout the night before, and could not be disturbed for some hours. He languished at a neighbouring coffee-house till eleven, dispatching messengers every quarter of an hour, to know if the empress of his heart was yet stirring. Unable any longer to brook delay, he repairs again to her house; she is still invisible; he insists upon seeing her, having something of the last consequence to impart; forces himself into her apartment; she testifies her surprise at his insolence; he reminds her of her promise, and how dangerous half an hour's delay may be.—She has entirely forgot every syllable, and rallies his presumption; he, much
en-

enraged, upbraids her perfidy.—Her servants are called, he undergoes the discipline of the blanket, and is bastinadoed out of doors into his new-gilt chariot.

Such was the substance of a letter I received about this time from Mrs. Freeman, which failed not to divert my melancholy, at a period that I had most occasion for a mental cordial. I must acknowledge that Annabella's behaviour to Fitzherbert highly gratified the just resentment I bore him ; and I wrote the very next post to my worthy correspondent, to beg she should acquaint herself with the sequel of this affair, in hopes to learn that he had terminated a villainous life by a means that gives the finishing-stroke to cowardice and infamy.

CHAP.

C H A P. XXII.

The treatment she meets with from Madam la Rosfiere. The step she takes in consequence. Renews her acquaintance with an Irish officer's widow. The imposition that is practised upon her, and the distress wherein it terminates.

AFTER my dismissal from Lady Bentley's service, I took up my lodging with Madam la Rosfiere her milliner, in hopes that I should be able soon to obtain another place amongst the English Nobility, who daily increased at Paris. Madam la Rosfiere was very civil to me for some time; but finding that, after remaining there about six weeks, I was still unprovided for, she very frankly told me, she was unable any longer

longer to support me, as she had not work enough to employ herself and her daughter, and begged that I would seek for another lodging. I was greatly mortified at this address from Madam la Rosiere, to whom I had been particularly instrumental in procuring Lady Bentley's custom, and who had recommended her to a great number of English Ladies; but I found ingratitude was the growth of every soil, and that all the professions of friendship Madam la Rosiere had made me consisted of nothing but the superficial unmeaning *politesse Françoise*.

I told her very laconically, that "I
 " was sorry for the trouble I had
 " given her; but I would take care that
 " it should be of no long duration."
 Her husband came in just at this
 juncture,

junction, and finding me preparing to depart, asked, with some surprise in his countenance, *What was the matter, and where I was going?* I told him how Madam la Rosfiere had behaved to me, and that he could not expect I should be any farther inconvenience to her. Mr. la Rosfiere seemed highly exasperated at his wife's conduct, and swore *that I should not leave his house till such time as I was provided for.*

This declaration from him brought more natural colour into his wife's face than she had conferred upon it, even by art; and *rouge* for once was totally eclipsed by passion. “How
 “Sir, said she, is it so!—What, then
 “you have discovered at last the
 “shameful correspondence you car-
 “ry on with this abandoned jade!
 “and

“ and you, Madam, you impudent
 “ flut, to do it under my very nose.
 “ No, you shall either leave the
 “ house, or I will ; and let us see to
 “ whom he gives the preference, to
 “ his trull, or to his wife.”

It was in vain for Mr. la Roffiere to attempt vindicating himself, all remonstrance was unheard, drowned in a continued chain of reproach and insult. Under these circumstances I thought it was acting the prudent part for me to retire, without undeceiving a jealous woman, who had no other grounds for her suspicions than her own deformity, and my comparative excellence.

Having taken a *fiacre*, I drove to the *Ruë St. Antoine*, where I had a slight acquaintance with an Irish officer's widow, who was very glad to see

see me, and, upon relating my story, expressed herself with much concern, that “ I, who was born of a good
 “ family, should form any connexions
 “ with such *canaille*, as hair-dressers
 “ wives, and milliners; had you,
 “ continued she, applied to me, when
 “ you quitted Lady Bentley’s service,
 “ I should have behaved to you like
 “ a gentlewoman as you are, and
 “ you would not have been exposed
 “ to this insult.”

This harangue upon the subject of gentility and good behaviour continued near half an hour, and would, in all likelihood, have been the topic for much more animadversion, had she not recollected “ it was
 “ dinner-time, and that she had not
 “ been yet to market; but that
 “ the *Traiteur*, across the way, was
 reckoned:

“reckoned to serve very elegantly,
 “and paid a particular deference to
 “the English ; and therefore begged
 “she might make use of my name,
 “as it would be of no small recom-
 “mendation.”

Mrs. O'Brien was so condescending as to take the trouble of ordering dinner, which was presently served, and which she failed not to pay due honour to. As to myself, I was so chagrined at the treatment I had just met with from Madam la Roffiere, that the fulness of my heart supplied all vacuity of stomach.

I had been a week with Mrs. O'Brien before I observed that every thing we had lived upon was entirely upon my score, when the *Traiteur*, who never gave credit but from one week

week to another, brought in his bill, and, with great submission, asking some thousand of pardons, with as many thousand *obéissances*, “hoped I “should not be offended at the liberty he had taken.” The liberty I could easily have forgiven, if he would as easily the debt, which was neither more nor less than *seventy-two livres*. I expressed great surprise at my name being at the head of the bill, telling him I was no lodger there, but a casual visitor, a guest of Madam Obrien’s, &c. He said he did not know any thing of the matter; but that Madam Obrien would not have obtained a single *aricot* upon her own account, for that she was already greatly in his debt; and he would not depart till I had given him an assurance I would see him paid.

Upon.

Upon Madam Obrien's return from mass, I could not help upbraiding her with her ungenerous behaviour, which had led me to the creation of so great a debt; and I at the same time expressed my uneasiness to think how it was to be paid, as all the money I had in the world amounted to no more than fifty livres. Her fruitful imagination immediately pointed out to me the method of creating money; and she hinted that my best sack and petticoat would procure double the sum that was required. This proposal was very far from being agreeable to me, and I could not help retaliating the compliment, in advising her to try first what she could get for one of her own; but she prevented my insisting much upon her making this experiment, by frankly acknow-

acknowledging, "that she was not
 " possessed of any other than that
 " which she wore; and that she
 " would not have continued in
 " mourning so long without any real
 " cause, except that of poverty, if
 " she had been able to make any
 " change in her dress: that the pen-
 " sion which she received, as an offi-
 " cer's widow, was so small, and so
 " irregularly paid, that she was driven
 " to great straits; but that she
 " was upon the point of recovering a
 " very considerable legacy, when she
 " should appear in a very different
 " manner; and when I might make
 " her house my home, without any
 " ceremony or expence."

These and such like persuasives,
 added to that powerful advocate *eat-
 ing* (for dinner-time had long since
 been

been elapsed, without Monsieur *le Traiteur*'s paying us his usual attention) at length prevailed upon me to follow Mrs. O'Brien's advice.

Vices and follies familiarize themselves to us by degrees; and what at first appeared to me worse than death, was gradually so softened in its asperity, that in a few weeks I was reduced to that state of mourning, which Mrs. O'Brien so justly complained of.

It was in vain for me to upbraid her with imposing upon me by false pretences and groundless hopes; it was time for me to think of altering my condition, and procuring subsistence by some other means than those which I had lately pursued. With this resolution I decamped one morning, whilst Mrs. O'Brien was gone
to

to mass, without taking any other leave of her than by a note, which I left upon her table. I found no great difficulty of moving, as every thing I was possessed of was now upon my back.

CHAP. XXIII.

The acquaintance Miss Brown makes in the Thuilleries; their conversation, which produces a closer connexion. Goes home with her benefactress. Some account of her boarders, and their behaviour. An uncommon conflict.

I HAD traversed half Paris without knowing whither I was destined, when, finding myself very tired, I repaired to the Thuilleries, in order to rest myself, and took my seat

seat upon the terrafs of the Capuchins. I had not been here long before a decent-looking woman, neatly dressed, came and placed herself by me. We faluted each other, and entered into that fort of converfation which ufually occurs between two people who have a mind to fpeak when they have nothing to fay. “ Dear me ! Mifs, “ faid ſhe, don’t you find it very ful- “ try ? ” “ Extremely hot, indeed Ma- “ dam, I replied ; but I think we “ have now and then here a refresh- “ ing breeze.” “ True, Mifs, faid ſhe, “ I think we have choſen the beſt “ feat we could for what little air “ there is. What a fight of people “ there will be to-morrow at St. “ Cloud, if this fine weather conti- “ nues ! ” “ No doubt of it, an- “ ſwered I, Madam.” “ Upon my K “ word,

“ word, Miss, now I look at you,
 “ methinks your features are quite
 “ familiar to me ; have not I had
 “ the pleasure of seeing you in Bri-
 “ tanny ? ” “ No, Madam, I never
 “ was in that part of France.” “ Well,
 “ to be sure, Miss, you are the very
 “ model of a young Lady that I knew
 “ at Nantes : I could almost have
 “ sworn you had been the same ;
 “ and the comparison, I can assure
 “ you, Miss, is no affront to you, for
 “ she is the toast of the whole city.”
 “ You are extremely polite, Madam,
 “ said I, you are pleased to compli-
 “ ment ; but if it were so, of what
 “ use would it be to me ? ” In utter-
 ing these words, a sigh escaped me,
 which was followed by some involun-
 tary tears. “ What, my dear child,
 “ said she (in an affectionate tone
 “ of

“ of voice, squeezing my hand) you
 “ cry? What is it that makes you
 “ uneasy? Has any misfortune hap-
 “ pened to you? Tell me, my dear,
 “ don’t be afraid of opening your
 “ mind to me; you may rely upon
 “ the affection which you have kind-
 “ led in me : can I be of any service
 “ to you? Pray tell me. Let us go,
 “ my life, to the coffee-house at the
 “ end of the terrafs, and breakfast;
 “ perhaps I may be of more service
 “ to you than you think for.” This
 proposal was far from being disagree-
 able to me, as I was still fasting; and
 I followed her, not doubting that
 heaven had sent her in my way, to
 snatch me from the brink of despair.
 After I had in some measure recruit-
 ed my spirits with two dishes of cof-
 fee, and a couple of little loaves, I

frankly told her my present distress,
 and asked her, if she could recom-
 mend me to a service of any kind, I
 did not care how mean it was, pro-
 vided I could but get my livelyhood
 in an honest way. “ By the holy
 “ Virgin ! cried my unknown bene-
 “ factress, it would be an absolute mar-
 “ tyrdom to think of putting such a
 “ sweet creature as you to hard work ;
 “ no, nature did not design you for
 “ such employment. It is needless
 “ to dissemble with you, such a fine
 “ girl as you are may aspire at
 “ any thing ; and there is not the
 “ least doubt, but that, if you will
 “ let yourself be guided by me, you
 “ will make your fortune in a very
 “ short time.” “ Ah ! my good La-
 “ dy, (I cried in rapture) tell me on-
 “ ly what you would have me do,
 “ and

“ and I will be bound to follow it ;
 “ I’ll resign myself entirely to your
 “ direction.” “ Well then, said she,
 “ we will live together ; I have al-
 “ ready four boarders, and you shall
 “ make the fifth.” “ What ! Madam,
 (I answered with some precipitation)
 “ have you already forgot, that in my
 “ present distressed situation it will be
 “ impossible for me to pay you a
 “ penny for my board ?” “ Don’t let
 “ that give you any uneasiness (she
 “ replied) ; all that I ask of you at
 “ present is, that you will submit
 “ yourself to my direction. I shall
 “ take you as a partner in a little
 “ traffic which I carry on ; and,
 “ please God, I don’t doubt, before
 “ the end of the month, you will be
 “ able not only to satisfy me, but to
 “ support yourself in every respect in

“ a genteel manner.” In the excess of my joy I was ready to throw myself at her feet, and bathe them with tears. I longed to be initiated into this happy society ; thanks to my lucky stars, my impatience was not of any great duration. Twelve o’clock struck, and we left the Thuilleries at the gate Des Feuillants. An old coachman upon the stand received us into his noble vehicle, and he conducted us to a retired house upon the Boulevards, facing the street Montmartre.

The house was surrounded by a court and a garden, which gave it a rural appearance, that prejudiced me highly in favour of the inhabitants, and I secretly blessed the lucky occasion that had been instrumental in conducting me to this retreat. I was
in-

introduced into a parlour that was very decently furnished, and my companions presently made their appearance. Their careless air and assurance a good deal disconcerted me. I had scarce effrontery enough to look them in the face; and it was with great hesitation I was able to answer their compliments. My benefactress suspecting that the meanness of my dress, when compared to theirs, might be the cause of my confusion, whispered to me, that she should equip me as fine as any of them. I was indeed not a little concerned to find myself in a greasy sack, that had been cleaned and dyed till it was difficult to ascertain what colour it laid claim to, amongst people whose very deshabiles consisted of some of the

richest filks that France or India could produce.

CHAP. XXIV.

Maria meets unexpectedly with an old acquaintance, who proves to be Mademoiselle Fenelon. Her adventures with father Jaquel in Holland and England.

THIS introduction had scarce taken place, when, casting my eyes round, I perceived one of my fellow boarders, whose attention seemed completely fixed upon me; and when I looked towards her she blushed, and appeared much confused: methought I recollected something of her features, and the more I examined her the more I was convinced that I was not mistaken; and
I was

I was resolved to profit of the first opportunity that offered to satisfy myself. One soon presented; for having observed this young lady go towards the garden, I followed her, when, upon comparing notes, we found ourselves to be old acquaintances, and that we had been fellow-boarders under the same roof long before, in more propitious days. Do you not, Miss Brown, recollect Mademoiselle Fenelon? At this expression I flew to her, and, grasping her in my arms, expressed my surprise and happiness in meeting with such an agreeable acquaintance, at so unexpected a time, and so extraordinary a place. She eagerly inquired, what accident had brought me here? I run over so much of my life as was necessary to satisfy her curiosity, care-

fully omitting, however, that part which proved my weakness and Fitzherbert's triumph. She seemed sincerely to lament my fate, and sympathise at my misfortunes. I begged of her, in return, to inform me how fortune had behaved towards her, and whether she had as much reason to complain of the blind goddess as myself? To this she readily consented, and entered into the following detail.

“ I have no occasion, said she, to
 “ remind you of the misfortune that
 “ befell me at the convent at Douay,
 “ where we passed so many innocent
 “ and agreeable hours ; nor, perhaps,
 “ to acquaint you that father Jaquel
 “ was one of the most hypocritic vil-
 “ lains that ever disgraced the eccle-
 “ siastical function ; nothing but the
 “ ten-

“tendernefs of your years protected’
 “you from his villainous defigns,
 “and nothing but the advanced age of
 “Madam Abbefs prevented her dif-
 “honour being equally manifested
 “with my own. Mifs Fleetwood
 “escaped by miracle, for had I not
 “been fo fuddenly and unexpectedly
 “delivered, he had laid fuch a plan
 “for poffeffing her, and which, to
 “my fhame be it fpoken, I was to
 “have been a principal actrefs in, as
 “could not, in all probability, have
 “failed of fuccefs. In a word, there
 “was fcarce one penfioner in the
 “whole fociety with whom he did
 “not carry on a carnal correspon-
 “dence, if her face and perfon ex-
 “cited his defires. But, upon my
 “dilhonour and his difgrace, you
 “know we were both obliged to

“ decamp, and it was necessary for
 “ us to leave France with all possible
 “ dispatch. He had immediately
 “ escaped into Holland, from whence
 “ he contrived to inform me, that he
 “ there waited for me, and should
 “ expect me as soon as I was in a si-
 “ tuation to travel. You are sensible
 “ that Madam Abbess would scarce
 “ let me remain under that religious
 “ roof the usual time that women
 “ take to recover their strength after
 “ such a violent effort of nature; she
 “ obliged me to depart after the third
 “ week of my lying-in, saying, the
 “ affair had already got wind, and
 “ made so much noise, that she
 “ was terrified at the consequences.
 “ As I did not dare appear before
 “ any of my relations after such a dis-
 “ aster, I did not require much per-
 “ suasion

“ suasion to follow father Jaquel in-
 “ to Holland; especially as I thought
 “ he was the properest person to give
 “ me advice in my future conduct,
 “ not only as my father confessor, but
 “ as that man to whom I had yielded
 “ my virgin heart, sacrificed my ho-
 “ nour, and all my future happi-
 “ ness.

“ After travelling through Flan-
 “ ders, I at length arrived in Hol-
 “ land, and I met father Jaquel at
 “ Amsterdam in a lay-habit. I was
 “ much surpris'd at the appearance
 “ he made, as he was accoutred
 “ more like a military man than
 “ an ecclesiastic. He, perceiving
 “ my surprise, told me, “ it was
 “ necessary to conform one's-self to
 “ the custom of the country one was
 “ in; and as they were all hereticks
 “ in

“ in Holland, and looked upon a
 “ priest as a monster, for the sake of
 “ society, and to avoid scandal, it
 “ was necessary to appear no way sin-
 “ gular.” I did not pretend to
 “ contradict his prudential maxims;
 “ but, on the contrary, told him, I
 “ should be guided according to his
 “ directions, and desired him to in-
 “ struct me what course I should
 “ take to regain the esteem and fa-
 “ vour of my friends? “ As to
 “ your relations and friends (said he)
 “ you must leave them to themselves,
 “ to be reconciled to your conduct at
 “ leisure. The prejudice of educa-
 “ tion goes a great way, and it is not
 “ the work of an hour to remove it;
 “ they may perhaps think the slip
 “ you have made, if such it can be
 “ called, irreparable; and, by their
 “ be-

“behaviour, they will endeavour to
 “render it so. It is therefore your
 “part to counteract their evil de-
 “signs, and by your future success
 “to convince them of their error. I
 “have during my officiating as con-
 “fessor at Douay collected near thir-
 “ty thousand livres, which I have
 “taken care not to leave behind me,
 “having from time to time placed it
 “in the different banks of Europe,
 “that I might always have some re-
 “source in case of an accident. I
 “now offer you a share of my purse
 “and fortune; and as most of my
 “money is placed in England, I pro-
 “pose soon going over thither, in or-
 “der to turn it to the greater advan-
 “tage. If you chuse to accompany
 “me as my wife, you may depend
 “upon it I shall always behave to
 “you

“ you as such.” Though I could
 “ not help thinking that such a pro-
 “ posal from a professed Jesuit, and my
 “ holy father confessor, was some-
 “ what inconsistent with his charac-
 “ ter, as I imagined he understood
 “ religious matters better than me,
 “ and that, if he could reconcile his
 “ conduct with his tenets, I certainly
 “ might, who had not yet taken the
 “ veil ; and prudence at the same
 “ time pointing out to me this, as the
 “ most probable means of living in
 “ ease and affluence, I did not long
 “ hesitate to accept his offer.

“ From this time, then, I took up-
 “ on myself the title and character of
 “ Madam Martin, which was the
 “ name he had adopted. He passed
 “ for a merchant from Bourdeaux,
 “ and actually transacted business as
 “ such.

“ such whilst he was in Holland.
 “ Upon his departure from hence he
 “ had recommendations from many
 “ Dutch merchants to some of the
 “ best houses in London, where we
 “ arrived a short time after. Here
 “ he took a house, furnished it in an
 “ elegant manner, hired a man in
 “ livery, and two maid servants; we
 “ were situated in a genteel neigh-
 “ bourhood at the polite end of the
 “ town, and I soon made acquaint-
 “ ance with, and received the vi-
 “ sits of most of the ladies in that
 “ quarter.

“ Mr. Martin repaired constantly
 “ every day to Change, and appeared
 “ in Change-Alley as a capital nego-
 “ ciator for merchants abroad; so it
 “ is not at all surprising that he ob-
 “ tained a very extensive credit, and,
 “ of

“ of course, a great deal of money
 “ circulated through his hands.

“ Mademoiselle Fenelon had got
 “ thus far in her narration, when
 “ Madam Laborde came to her,
 “ and told her it was time to dress ;
 “ I was therefore obliged to suspend
 “ my curiosity till a future oppor-
 “ tunity.”

CHAP. XXV.

Continuation of Mademoiselle Fene-
 lon's story. The infamous part
 Monsieur Martin begins to act. A
 scandalous though common cha-
 racter in the person of Madam la
 Touche.

I Scarce gave Mademoiselle Fenelon
 time to dress herself, so eager was
 I to know the sequel of her history ;
 and

and she seeming to be as impatient to relate it, as I was to hear it, we soon resumed our walk in the garden, and she her narration.

“ I think (said she) I left off upon
 “ our arrival in London, where we
 “ had taken a house;” upon my answering in the affirmative, she then continued: “ A pretty foreigner in
 “ London (you know) soon attracts
 “ the eyes of the men, especially if
 “ she appears in publick, and makes
 “ any figure. Monsieur Martin (for
 “ such I shall now continue to call
 “ him) debarred me from no pleasures nor amusements; and tho’
 “ he did not go frequently himself to
 “ public places, I often appeared at
 “ the walks and gardens, the opera,
 “ and play-houses. In short, I was
 “ pestered with dangles whom I did
 “ not

“ not yet very well understand ; tho’
 “ I don’t in the least doubt but they
 “ said very tender things to me. It
 “ is true, some of them, who were
 “ foreigners, spoke French, and here
 “ and there one amongst them Ita-
 “ lian ; but I found there was scarce
 “ a foreigner to be met with in Lon-
 “ don, without he bore some public
 “ character, that was not either a
 “ hair-dresser, a valet-de-chambre, a
 “ cook, a dancing-master, or a Je-
 “ suit ; for which reason my husband
 “ always warned me to avoid them,
 “ as keeping them company could be
 “ of no service to us, and would only
 “ tend to disgrace us. It was for this
 “ reason I had so little occasion to
 “ speak my mother-tongue, and was
 “ frequently compelled to talk what
 “ English I could, and by this means
 “ it

“ it soon became, in some measure,
“ familiar to me.”

“ A very rich merchant, who
“ often walked with me in the
“ Park, was the most earnest of all
“ my lovers ; he would frequently
“ make me presents, and endeavour
“ to talk with me alone. In one
“ of these tête-à-tête parties he told
“ me, “ it was a thousand pities that
“ such a beautiful young lady should
“ be united to an old fellow that
“ might very well pass for my father ;
“ that human nature shuddered at so
“ disproportionate a match ; that he
“ was sure I could not be happy ; that
“ I was only a sacrifice, as he suppo-
“ sed, to my parents will ; that he
“ had a heart full of sympathy and
“ love, and a person, which he flat-
“ tered himself was not disagreeable
“ to

“ to me ; that he was sure, at least,
 “ it was more suited to mine, in
 “ point of age, than my doating
 “ husband’s.” In saying this, he
 “ forced from me a kiss *à l’Angloise*,
 “ which was the first time I was ever
 “ embraced by any man but Mon-
 “ sieur Martin. I blushed, and for
 “ some time had not the power to
 “ express my resentment at his ex-
 “ pressions and behaviour ; however,
 “ at length I gave him to understand
 “ that his conduct was very disagree-
 “ able to me, and that I was greatly
 “ surpris’d how he could have the as-
 “ surance to behave so to a modest
 “ woman. He said no more for the
 “ present, except begging my pardon
 “ if he had given me any offence.

“ This happened at the island in
 “ St. James’s Park, when, upon join-
 “ ing

“ing an elderly French woman,
 “who used to attend me in these
 “excursions, and who was an old
 “acquaintance of Mr. Martin’s, I
 “related to her in what manner Mr.
 “Johnson had behaved to me. She
 “pretended at first to be greatly
 “surprised, but at length began to
 “apologize for his conduct, by say-
 “ing it was the English manner;
 “and those who had not travelled
 “and seen the world were apt to be
 “guilty of these mistakes, but that
 “they meant no harm.

“Mr. Martin the next morning
 “appeared to be very dull, and, up-
 “on my enquiring the reason, he at
 “length with seeming reluctance told
 “me, that he had a bill of exchange
 “drawn upon him from Amsterdam,
 “for six hundred pounds sterling,
 “which

“ which would be due the next day,
 “ and that he did not know how to
 “ raise the money, as he fell quite
 “ short of cash ; and concluded this
 “ information with asking me, if, a-
 “ mong the number of my polite and
 “ rich acquaintance, I could not
 “ borrow so much ? for, added he,
 “ you know there is no refusing a
 “ pretty woman any thing.

“ I answered, I believe I could
 “ have done such a thing for him
 “ four and twenty hours before ; but
 “ that I had had a little misunder-
 “ standing with one Mr. Johnson,
 “ who had taken some liberties with
 “ me that I thought were not allow-
 “ able. Upon this he asked me the
 “ particulars of the affair, which I
 “ very innocently and ingenuously
 “ told him ; though he seemed not
 “ a little

“ a little nettled at that part which
 “ related to himself, he stifled his
 “ resentment, in saying, “ Well, my
 “ dear, I don’t entirely approve of his
 “ conduct ; but, you know, you must
 “ turn every thing to your advantage
 “ in this life ; and if you can make
 “ this man’s folly serve your interest,
 “ even let him buoy himself up with
 “ the hopes, that you will, one time or
 “ other, make him the happy lover.”

“ Such a speech from Mr. Martin
 “ stagnated my whole mass, and I
 “ was for some time unable to make
 “ any answer. That he should so
 “ coolly and dispassionately put up
 “ with so gross an insult to him and
 “ myself, was what astonished me,
 “ when the only reason of my keep-
 “ ing it secret from him hitherto, was
 “ my fear his jealousy and revenge

L

“ might

“ might carry him to some fatal
 “ lengths.

“ My dear, continued he, giving
 “ me an embrace, do not imagine
 “ by what I have said that the fer-
 “ vor of my love is not so strong as
 “ ever ; it is revenge that excites me
 “ to put you upon this scheme :
 “ Johnson ought to pay handsome-
 “ ly for his rashness and insolence.
 “ You have it in your power to make
 “ him ; besides, consider of what in-
 “ finite service the money will be to
 “ me at this critical juncture.”

“ This specious method of reason-
 “ ing, joined to Madam la Touche’s
 “ seconding his arguments, prevailed
 “ upon me to answer Mr. Johnson’s
 “ bow the next time I met him in
 “ public. This concession, on my
 “ part, he looked upon as an acquies-
 “ cence

“ cence to what he had proposed,
 “ and he took every opportunity to
 “ gain upon my affection. As I had
 “ not the least passion for the man,
 “ I could hear with the utmost in-
 “ difference all his protestations; and
 “ when he was talking vociferously
 “ of Cupid and Venus, I was think-
 “ ing of his cash and bank-notes.

“ I should have told you before,
 “ that Madam la Touche was nei-
 “ ther more nor less than a private
 “ procuress, whom Mr. Martin had
 “ known abroad, and whom he
 “ thought would be a very proper
 “ person to employ in his service, as
 “ a duena or superintendant over
 “ my mercenary amours. To this
 “ end he had given her directions how
 “ to behave, and through her was
 “ echoed to me his good councils and

“ instructions; so that, by the help
 “ of this experienced and attentive
 “ monitor, I could not possibly err.
 “ She told me to give Johnson not
 “ the least liberties till such time as he
 “ had lent me at least five hundred
 “ guineas, and that the sooner I asked
 “ him for the money the better; and
 “ that even then I was to give him
 “ nothing but promises and fair words
 “ till such time as he entered into a
 “ bond for five thousand pounds,
 “ payable on demand; for, added
 “ she, he is as rich as Cræsus, and
 “ a thousand guineas to him are not
 “ so much as ten guineas to Mr.
 “ Martin; therefore act prudently,
 “ and your fortune is made.”

CHAP.

CHAP. XXVI.

Conclusion of Mademoiselle Fenc-
lon's story.

I Could not refrain crying out in
this place, what a monster! Is it
possible that father Jaquel could be
such an abominable wretch! "Ah!
"Miss Brown, said she, have a little
"patience; I have not related half
"his good actions, his virtues are
"innumerable. But I must resume
"the thread of my story: When he
"found, that, notwithstanding all the
"hints he had given, and all the ad-
"vice Madam la Touche had so plen-
"tifully bestowed, I had still made no
"sort of progress in the money-af-
"fair, nay that I had not so much
"as insinuated to Mr. Johnson that
"I stood in need of any, he began

“ to treat the matter in a very diffe-
 “ rent manner. “ Lookye, Madam,
 “ said he, if you do not absolutely
 “ contrive to meet Johnson this very
 “ day, and know positively whether
 “ he will lend it you, or no, I shall
 “ make no ceremony of sending you
 “ off to-morrow morning for France,
 “ and placing you in your father’s
 “ hands, to do what he pleases with
 “ you; the consequence of which will
 “ be, that you will be shut up in a
 “ convent for life: and as I know you
 “ have not an ounce of nun’s flesh a-
 “ bout you, I hope you will take my
 “ advice and get the money this very
 “ evening.

“ Such a menace from a man who
 “ had ever as yet treated me with the
 “ greatest tenderness, frightened me
 “ more than any thing that could
 “ have

“ have happened to me. I burst in-
 “ to tears, and, falling at his knees,
 “ begged he would not sacrifice me
 “ to the lewd embraces of a man I
 “ despised, for the sake of a little
 “ pelf; but he remained inexorable
 “ to all my remonstrances, and, with-
 “ out raising me up, he turned upon
 “ his heel, and quitted the room. Ma-
 “ dam la Touche came to me in this
 “ situation, desiring to know what
 “ was the matter: this Abigail, this
 “ female seductress, versed in all the
 “ arts of imposition, was well ac-
 “ quainted with the cause of my
 “ grief; for heaven’s sake, child,
 “ said she, don’t cry for nothing;
 “ Mr. Martin is a very good-natured
 “ man, tho’ he is apt to be a little
 “ passionate; wipe away your tears,
 “ I have something to communicate

“ to you that will dissipate all your
 “ grief ; here is a letter from a lover,
 “ a dying, desponding lover. Saying
 “ this, she put the following billet
 “ into my hand.

“ DEAR MADAM,

“ It was with inexpressible joy and
 “ extasy that I received your dear
 “ letter ; and you may depend upon
 “ it, as you acquaint me Mr. Mar-
 “ tin will certainly be out of the way,
 “ that I will wait upon you punctu-
 “ ally at four.

“ Your impatient adorer,

William Johnson.”

“ Good Gods ! what was my sur-
 “ prise at reading these contents, and
 “ on looking at the superscription,
 “ which

“which was to Madam Martin!

“Bless me, Madam, said I to Ma-

“dam la Touche, surely this is some

“mistake; I never wrote a line to

“Mr. Johnson in my life! “Pshah,

“answered she, never mind that, you

“ignorant girl; suppose a friend has

“done a good office for you, ought

“you not to thank her?” I had not

“time to reply before I heard a rap

“at the door, and, without my leave,

“saw Mr. Johnson enter.

“He run to me, and, clasping me

“in his arms, methought would

“have devoured me with kisses,

“which I repaid with a flood of

“tears. He was greatly surpris'd at

“my grief, and intreated me to let

“him know the cause. I saw I was

“sacrificed, but my pride would not

“let me own it to him; and that same

“ pride urged me for the first time to
 “ dissemble. His questions and in-
 “ treaty forced me to reply, and
 “ my imagination, amidst all my sor-
 “ row, pointed out to me that this
 “ was the lucky moment I was to im-
 “ prove. “ Why, really, Sir, said I,
 “ to be ingenuous, the cause of my
 “ sending for you to-day, is to im-
 “ part a secret which I dare not in-
 “ trust with any one but yourself, so
 “ great is my opinion of your since-
 “ rity. “ Pray, Madam, said he with
 “ emotion, what is it? My fortune
 “ and life are at your service, if they
 “ can be of any use to you.” So
 “ gallant a reply gave me fresh cou-
 “ rage. Why then, Sir, said I, since
 “ you are so polite, I must tell you :
 “ I had last night the misfortune to
 “ lose 500 guineas with Baron du Bos,
 “ the

“ the ——— Minister, and I dare not ac-
 “ quaint my husband with it ; if you
 “ would favour me with the loan of
 “ as much, you may depend upon my
 “ repaying you the first opportunity,
 “ as I would prefer laying under an
 “ obligation to an Englishman rather
 “ than a foreigner. “ Madam, he
 “ answered; I am thoroughly sen-
 “ sible of the compliment you pay
 “ our nation ; and I esteem it a par-
 “ ticular honour to have this oppor-
 “ tunity of convincing you of my
 “ friendship.” In saying this, he laid
 “ down bank-notes to the amount of
 “ a thousand pounds, adding, “ he
 “ begged I would try *his* luck with
 “ the remainder, and see if I could
 “ not get home upon the Baron.”

“ So much civility really staggered
 “ me ; the obliging manner in which

“ he presented the notes gave me the
 “ highest opinion of his generosity,
 “ and I found he had stole insensibly
 “ upon my affections. This visit,
 “ tho’ so important, was very short ;
 “ but I promised to meet him the
 “ next afternoon, all alone, in the
 “ Bird-cage Walk.

“ Monsieur Martin gave a most
 “ significant grin at the sight of the
 “ notes, saying, I was a good girl,
 “ and should have a new gown for
 “ my pains. “ But, pray now (said
 “ he) tell me the truth, which do
 “ you like best, Johnson or me ? for
 “ it is needless to deny it. I know
 “ a man won’t part with his money
 “ for nothing.”

“ It was in vain to urge my inno-
 “ cence; the more I said to prove it,
 “ the more I convinced him of my
 “ en-

“endeavouring to deceive him ; fo-
 “that, after an hour’s altercation, I
 “retired to rest with a heavy heart,
 “which vented itself in a stream of
 “cordial tears.

“I would willingly have declined
 “going the next day, notwithstand-
 “ing my appointment, and even told
 “Mr. Martin, that, since I found he
 “was of so jealous a disposition, and
 “that there was no convincing him
 “of one’s innocence, I would at
 “least contrive to avoid seeing Mr.
 “Johnson any more ; but, heavens !
 “what was his reply ? “ Pshaw ; you
 “fool, you cannot do more than
 “you have done ; perhaps, if you
 “please him as well to-day, he may
 “throw another thousand into your
 “lap.”

“ This

“ This speech of Mr. Martin’s had
 “ more effect in accomplishing Mr.
 “ Johnson’s designs, than all the ar-
 “ guments the latter had ever used ;
 “ for, since I found I was looked up-
 “ on equally guilty as if I had ac-
 “ tually consented, I began to think
 “ it was a matter of little conse-
 “ quence whether I yielded or no.
 “ Add to this, I considered my gra-
 “ tifying Johnson, at this time, as a
 “ kind of revenge for Martin’s ill
 “ treatment ; so that I met him with
 “ dispositions as agreeable to his pur-
 “ pose as he could well desire. Nor
 “ was he backward in using his ut-
 “ most addresses, to obtain what I
 “ granted him before my return.

“ Thus then was I clandestinely
 “ sacrificed to prostitution by my fa-
 “ ther confessor, and my pretended
 “ hus-

“band. The correspondence be-
 “tween me and Johnson continued
 “many months, with the approba-
 “tion of the honest Jesuit, who,
 “tasting the sweets that flowed from
 “it, highly applauded Johnson’s ge-
 “nerosity ; as well he might, since
 “in the course of fifteen months I
 “drained him of near five thousand
 “pounds. At the end of this time
 “he was declared a bankrupt.

“Though I had procured Mon-
 “sieur Martin so considerable a sum
 “within so short a time, his natural
 “extravagance, joined to the presents
 “he made to Madam la Touche,
 “who claimed a share in the spoils ;
 “we were not much richer at the
 “end of that period by all our gains ;
 “so that he was planning new pro-
 “jects for raising supplies, at the
 “price

“ price of my prostitution. After
 “ what had passed between me and
 “ Johnson, he thought there was no
 “ necessity for mincing matters, and
 “ he now frankly told me, “ he had
 “ a Colonel in his eye for me ; that,
 “ however, he was afraid he would
 “ not pay so well as Johnson ; but
 “ that he had an after-game to play
 “ upon him.”

“ Mrs. la Touche was according-
 “ ly engaged to bring us together :
 “ the Colonel’s face I recollected ve-
 “ ry well, he had frequently dangled
 “ after me at Vauxhall and Mary-
 “ bone ; but had never till now
 “ opened his lips upon the score of
 “ love, or any thing else. He made
 “ me a present of only a fifty pound
 “ note the first time he visited me ;
 “ which so irritated Monsieur Martin,
 “ that

“ that he resolved to give him no
 “ farther quarter, but to play his after-
 “ game upon him as soon as possi-
 “ ble. He placed Madam la Touche
 “ and another female in a closet,
 “ where they designedly made the
 “ Colonel discover them by cough-
 “ ing loud, after the Colonel had
 “ paid his devotions to me upon the
 “ altar of Venus. The Colonel took
 “ the alarm, and, judging of their
 “ business, he compounded matters
 “ for five hundred pounds with Mar-
 “ tin, to avoid having them can-
 “ vassed in a court of justice for
 “ *crim. con.* as he was himself a mar-
 “ ried man.

“ Notwithstanding all this suc-
 “ cess in my profession, Monsieur
 “ Martin soon failed for 15,000 l.
 “ and he decamped for Holland,
 “ leaving

“ leaving me and his creditors to
 “ share his household furniture. He
 “ wrote me a letter from Rotter-
 “ dam, telling me that he should
 “ soon return to England, and settle
 “ his affairs. But I never set eyes
 “ upon him afterwards.

“ I have since that time shared all
 “ the vicissitudes of an unhappy wo-
 “ man. I was brought to Paris by
 “ an English Nobleman, who, dying
 “ soon after, left me here destitute;
 “ and Madam la Borde has been kind
 “ enough to admit me amongst the
 “ number of her pensioners.”

CHAP.

CHAP. XXVII.

Some insights into Maria's present situation. A descriptive portrait of a female gladiating repast, done from the life.

MADEMOISELLE Fenelon finished her story very abruptly, without giving me an opportunity of being acquainted with the footing which we were upon at Madam la Borde's; and my curiosity was all this time excited to know what kind of business it was in which I was to be admitted a partner. The gay appearance of my companions highly astonished me; I could not conceive in what manner they were able to support the expence they must necessarily make. Whilst I was thus racking my

my

my imagination to explain these mysteries, we were called to dinner, and the soup was served: the repast was nothing extraordinary, but the quick circulation of the glass appeared greatly so to me, and its effects soon manifested themselves; for the first course was scarcely removed before two of our boarders, whom the fumes of wine began now to operate upon, fell to boxing across the table. In an instant the table, plates, ragouts and sauces were overturned upon the floor; and now, that they had no interruption to get at each other, a regular Broughtonian match ensued, their handkerchiefs, caps and ribbons wantoned in the air, and bloody noses began to stream. The mistress thought it was high time for her to interpose her authority; but in the

con-

conflict receiving a severe blow upon the eye, which was a kind of compliment she did not expect, her pacific intentions were instantly changed to a hostile charge upon her assailant, and she gave very convincing proofs of her skill in the athletic art. The other two boarders, who had till now observed a strict neutrality, imagined they had been long enough idle spectators, and now followed the example of their companions, so that this soon became a general action.

For my part, I had from the first dawn of this rupture retired in great consternation to a corner of the room, without once attempting to move during this Amazonian conflict.

Here was a scene for Hogarth to paint! Five women, more resembling furies than human beings, with di-
she-

shevelled hair and bloody faces, bruising, swearing, cursing, scratching, biting, pukeing, screaming, and with scarce a rag of cloaths to cover their nakedness, which in this present situation would have been visible in spite of dress. One who had got her antagonist down, rubbing her nose in a ragout; another, with her coats over her head, and an andouille between her legs, calling out upon the Virgin Mary to preserve her in her present danger; the old lady swearing immediate destruction to them all, for assaulting her. In this critical situation, the combatants still in the heat of action, which was not likely to be of short duration, a veteran female, who seemed to have served many an apprenticeship in the family, announced the arrival of a German

Ba-

Baron. This was a visitor of too much consequence, not to procure an instantaneous cessation of hostilities. The heroines immediately disengaged, to search for their caps, ribbons, ruffles, and petticoats, with which they flew to their respective apartments; whilst the hostess, who had made a precipitate retreat, after having wiped her face, and restored herself to the best appearance she was able in so short a time, went to amuse the Baron, till the ladies were in a condition to receive company.

END of the FIRST VOLUME.

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Baron. This was a volume of 100
much consequence, not to procure
an instantaneous collection of Indian
the. The baroness immediately dis-
engaged to send for the objects
baroness, which they in respective
apartments; who had made a present
having what the baroness and her
herself to the baroness's apartment the
was able in a short time, went
to amuse the Baron, till the latter
were in a condition to receive them.



END of the First Volume.